# THE FREE PRESS. OURNA

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**NATION** 

Cash row: Probe panel confirms allegations against Justice Varma, CJI seeks his reply



GAMES Rohit announces retirement from Test cricket, will continue to play ODIs



Cinema Actress Kangana Ranaut lauds 'Operation Sindoor'

Edit Retaliation a must, but so is dialogue once calm returns

FOCUSSED, MEASURED, NON-ESCALATORY | India strikes nine terror targets linked to Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in Pakistan as well as in PoK

# PAKISTAN PUNISHE









very quickly."

happen based on a little bit of the

past." "They've been fighting for a

long time. They've been fighting for

many, many decades and centuries,

actually, if you really think about it."

He added, "No, I just hope it ends

**Contd on** Nation

Damage assessment: Pakistani troops inspect destruction wrought by Indian defence forces

**WANT IT TO END, CAN MEDIATE: TRUMP** 

Hopefully, they can stop now. They

thing to help, I will be there."

have done tit-for-tat. We have a good

relationship with both. If I can do any-

Earlier, Trump said, "It's a shame,

he said, adding, "We heard about it

just as we were walking in the doors

#### **NEW DELHI**

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

Exactly a fortnight after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were identified on the basis of religion and killed by terrorist, India launched "Operation Sindoor" early on Thursday morning hitting nine terrorist training camps and launch pads inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir with 24 missile strikes.

The missile strikes, which took place within a span of 25 minutes, left a large number of suspected terrorists dead and injured at the nine locations at Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum, and Chakwa in Pakistan and as per unconfirmed reports around 70 terrorists were killed and another 60 were injured in these.

Media reports from Pakistan also cited Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar claiming that 10 members of his family and four aides were killed in the attack at Bahawalpur. Besides the JeM, the Indian armed forces had also targeted bases of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, whose offshoot, The Resistance Front, had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam

attack.

The first strike took place around 1 a.m.. The Additional Director General of Public Information of Indian Army posted on "X" about it with "#JusticeServed". It wrote that "Target 1" was Abbas Terrorist Camp at Kotli at a distance of 13 Km from LoC (POJK). Describing it as the "nerve centre for training suicide bombers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)", the Army said this centre that provided "key training infrastructure for over 50 terrorists" was destroyed at 1.04 am.

At 1-44 am, the Ministry of Defence announced the armed forces had launched Operation Sindoor hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. It categorically stated the actions were "focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature" and that "no Pakistani military facilities have been targeted." In a clear message that India did not desire escalation, the note had also stated that India "demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution".

The MoD had also specified that a detailed press conference would be held at 10 am. In the morning, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the media about Operation Sindoor.

**Contd on** Nation

**Related reports in Mumbai & Nation** 

# Amul Always in fashion

India's biggest Galakaar!

# Misri focus

**FPJ News Service** 

**NEW DELHI** 

In explaining New Delhi's response to the Pahalgam attack, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri brought focus on the terrorist group calling itself the The Resistance Front, a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy.

He elaborated:" A group calling itself The Resistance Front (TRF) has claimed responsibility for the attack. This group is a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-

Tayyeba. It is notable that India had given inputs about the TRF in the half-yearly report to the Monitoring Team of the UN's 1267 Sanctions Committee in May and 2024, November

bringing out its role as a cover for Pakistan-based terrorist groups. Earlier too, in December 2023, India had informed the monitoring team about Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammad operating through small terror groups such as the TRF.

It was in this context, Misri pointed out, that Pakistan's pressure to remove references to TRF in the April 25 UN Security Council Press StateOur intelligence has developed an accurate picture of the planners and

Vikram Misri

backers of this team

ment was notable.

Minsri said that probe into the attack had "brought out the communication nodes of terrorists in and to Pakistan. The claims made by The Resistance Front and their re-

> posting by known social media handles of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba speak for themselves. Identification of the attackers, based on eyewitness accounts,

as well as other information available

Sajid Mir to law enforcement agencies, has also progressed. Our intelligence has developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team." He said, "The features of this attack also tie in with Pakistan's long track record of perpetrating cross-border terror in India, which is well docu-

**Contd on** Nation

mented, and beyond question.

#### both very well. I want to see them of the Oval (Office). I guess people work it out, I want to see them stop. knew something was going to

Opposition unites PM CHOSE CODENAME around response

Washington: US President Donald

Trump said he wants India and Pakis-

tan to stop attacking each other and

offered to help the two nations work

out differences amid rising tensions.

terrible. I get along with both. I know

Speaking at the Oval Office, "It is so

**Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar** 

**NEW DELHI** Opposition parties on Wednes-

day hailed the Indian Armed forces in one voice after they carried out precision strikes against terrorist organisations in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

While some of the leaders were brief in their appreciation or just saluted the nation and the forces, others went on to state what they stood for.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led the Congress in declaring that he was "Proud of our Armed Forces." He also wrote "Jai Hind!" along with it in his post on "X". His sister and Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was more elaborate and posted: "We are extremely proud of our army. Our brave soldiers protect our freedom and integrity. May God protect them and give them immense courage to face challenges with patience and bravery. Jai Hind."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who had only recently criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not preventing the Pahalgam attack despite intelligence inputs, stated that "India has an unflinching national policy

#### **ALL-PARTY MEET TODAY**

In the wake of Operation

Sindoor, the Centre has convened an all-party meeting on Thursday at 11 a.m. to brief the nation's political leadership on the strategic strikes. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju made the announcement on Wednesday and wrote on X, "Govt has called an All Party leaders meeting at 11 am on 8th May, 2025 at Committee Room: G-074, in the Parliament Library Building, Parliament Complex in New Delhi." Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met **President Droupadi** Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and formally briefed her on the

against all forms of terrorism emanating from Pakistan and PoK. We are extremely proud of our Indian Armed Forces who have stuck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK.

operation.

Contd on Nation

### **Agencies**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally chose the codename 'Operation Sindoor, 'sources told PTI. It is a reference to 'sindoor' (vermilion) that many Hindu women wear as a signifier of marriage. In the Pahalgam attack, Hindu men were singled out and shot dead in front of their wives and children by terrorists.

Sources also told ANI that all through the night Prime Min-



ister Narendra Modi constantly monitored the Operation Sindoor.

Care had also been taken in the choice of targets to exclude

military ones. Foreign Secre-

Care taken to select non-military targets and to ensure no civilian casualties. **Operation was** conducted from Indian soil.

tary Vikram Misri was to explain later that, "Our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. No Pakistani military facilities

demonstrated considerable restraint in the selection of targets and method of execution," the statement said. For the mission, precision

strike weapon systems from

have been targeted. India has

the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, including loitering munitions, were deployed, sources confirmed to ANI. A loitering munition is a type of precision weapon that hovers over a target area to locate

**Contd on** Nation

# Sajjad Gul, Lashkar link to Pahalgam

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

Sheikh Sajjad Gul, a 50-yearold Kashmiri and head of Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy The Resistance Front (TRF), has emerged as the mastermind of the Pahalgam terror attack, officials revealed on Wednesday.

Holed up in the Cantonment town of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, under the patronage of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Gul, who also goes by the alias of Sajjad Ahmed Sheikh, has been a planner of a number of terror attacks, including tar-



geted killings between 2020 and 2024 in Central and South Kashmir, grenade attacks in Central Kashmir in 2023, ambush of J&K police personnel in Bijbehra in Anantnag, Gagangir, Z-Morh Tunnel attack in Ganderbal. The NIA had designated him a terrorist in April 2022, with a reward of Rs

10 lakh. The official said that during the investigation into the Pahalgam attack, links and some communications have been traced back to Gul. Used by Pakistan's external snooping agency ISI as a Kashmiri face of the local Punjabi-dominated Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sheikh was educated in Srinagar and did his MBA from Bangalore, later pivoting to a lab technician course in Kerala.

Contd on Nation

#### 18 airports shut for now

PTI NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

morning.

More than 200 flights have been cancelled and at least 18 airports, including Srinagar, have been temporarily shut for operations amid restrictions in the wake of the armed forces launching missile attacks on terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday

Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India Express, Akasa Air, and a few foreign airlines have cancelled their services to and from various airports.

Sources said that at least 18 airports in the northern and western parts of the country have been temporarily shut. These airports include Srinagar, Leh, Jammu, Amritsar, Pathankot, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Gwalior, Shimla, Dharamshala, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Hindon, Nanded, Adampur, they

added. According to one of the sources, more than 200 flights to and from various airports have been cancelled by airlines.

The affected passengers can opt for a full refund or an alternate flight as per availability. At least 35 flights to and from the Delhi airport have been cancelled.

### India tells the world of 'measured action'

**Agencies** 

**NEW DELHI** Senior Indian officials held conversations with their counter-

parts in key countries to apprise them of Op Sindoor. External Affairs minister **S** Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Japan, Ger-

many, France and Spain.

"Had a telecon with FM Takeshi Iwaya of Japan. Appreciate the strong condemnation of the April 22 terrorist attack. Discussed India's action against the cross-border terrorist infrastructure this

morning," he said on X. Jaishankar said he had a joint call with French foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot and Germany's Johann Wadephul. "Appreciated their solidarity and support in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack. Discussed ensuring zero tolerance for terrorism," he said.

On his talks with Spanish foreign minister Jose Manuel Albares, Jaishankar said: "Discussed India's firm and measured response to cross-

border terrorism." He spoke to Qatar's PM and foreign minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, over phone, discussing India's stance in the fight

against cross-border terrorism. NSA Ajit Doval also told his



counterparts in countries India has no intent to escalate tensions but is prepared to "retaliate resolutely" if Pakistan does so, officials said.

"NSA briefed his counterparts on actions taken and method of execution, which was measured, non-escalatory and restrained," an official said.

He spoke to US NSA and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, UK's Jonathan Powell, Saudi Arabia's Musaid Al Aiban, UAE's Sheikh Tahnoon, and Japan's Masataka Okano.

Contact was established with Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, member of Political Bureau of CPC central committee and minister of foreign affairs of PRC, Wang Yi.

Meanwhile, Army's 16 Corps said its jawan, L/Nk Dinesh Kumar of 5 Fd Regt, was killed in Pakistan's cross-border shelling along the LoC in J&K. Earlier, 15 Indians were killed and 43 hurt in Pak shelling in the Poonch and Tangdhar regions.

#### PM in business as usual messaging **Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar**

**NEW DELHI** 

It was a long night and day for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as after attending a media event on Tuesday evening, he monitored the conduct of Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday morning and then held a number of meetings to both review the operation and sent across a message of it being "business as usual" for

**After reviewing Operation Sindoor, Prime** Minister Modi takes a number of nonmilitary decisions in Cabinet meetings

taken in a Cabinet meeting. Later in the morning Modi first met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval who briefed him about the strikes as also how the

India as a number of non-

strategic decisions were

armed forces were prepared for any kind of response to them from Pakistan. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where Pakistan had retaliated by shelling, resulting in loss of lives and

**Contd on** | Nation

**PM** cancels trip to Europe Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called off his

scheduled three-nation Europe tour in the wake of heightened tensions with Pakistan, sources confirmed on Wednesday. PM Modi was scheduled to travel to Croatia, Norway and the Netherlands starting May 13 and also participate in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo on May 15-16. Last month, PM Modi had cut short his Saudi Arabia visit and returned home immediately after the Pahalgam attack. PM also decided not to travel to Moscow to attend the Victory Day celebrations of Russia. -IANS

epaper.freepressjournal.in

#### UNITED FRONT | Parties across the political spectrum hail armed forces and say Pakistani terrorism will no longer be tolerated

### 'WE HAVE TRULY AVENGED PAHALGAM'



**Kalpesh Mhamunkar** MUMBAI

Parties across the political spectrum came together on Wednesday to applaud the India armed forces and Prime Minister Narendra Eknath Modi.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed his appreciation, stating, "India

will not tolerate this [terror-incident," he said. ist attacks] any more. The armed forces have once again demonstrated their power. I congratulate them and Prime Minister Narendra Modi-ji for destroying the terrorist camps."

Sindoor' itself reflects the anger of Indian citizens after the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack."

Deputy Chief Minister Shinde Operation Sindoor would break the backbone of terrorists. "The armed forces have avenged the Pahalgam

"Today, we have truly avenged the killing of Indians in Pahalgam. The strikes brought satisfaction to every citizen of the country. The decisive stance of our respected Prime Minister "The name 'Operation Narendra Modi was evident throughout this operation. India is a peace-loving nation, but the clear message

sent across the world is that

we can make adversaries

kneel when necessary.

cripple terrorists in Pakistan.

Today, every Indian stands

with the armed forces,"



Operation Sindoor will Shinde added.

DCM Ajit Pawar said the nation has complete faith in the capabilities of the Indian

armed forces. "Behind the soldiers is the united and strong force of the nation," he said. Pawar stated that the

success of Operation Sindoor was a result of the "military's strength, political willpower, and the unity of the country's citizens".

Pawar praised Modi's bold and strong leadership for demonstrating the willpower to carry out military actions beyond the country's borders. He also congratulated Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for giving complete freedom, support and strength to the Indian armed forces and standing firmly behind them.

Uddhav Thackeray expressed his support for armed forced. saying: "The attack on the terrorist locations in Pakistan is a matter of pride. By eliminating the terrorists who wiped the sindoor from the foreheads of 26 mothers and sisters in Pahalgam, the army has taken revenge. It is essential to destroy Pakistan's sleeper cells in India and completely eradicate terrorism. India's forces are capable of facing all kinds of situations, and Operation

Sindoor has proven that." Shiv Sena (SP) leader Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Sharad Pawar congratulated

the armed forces, saying, "Heartfelt congratulations to all the Indian soldiers who have preserved India's sovereignty and ensured the safety of its citizens, while giving an apt response to the Pahalgam attack!"

He added, "Every Indian has complete faith in the Indian armed forces, who protect the country's sovereignty even by taking bullets on their chests. Upholding that very trust, the armed forces carried out an airstrike at midnight, avenging the terrorist attack in Pahalgam."



### Mumbaikars can expect power blackouts in the

**Blackouts in the city** 

coming days. Civil defence director Prabhat Kumar said on Wednesday that blackouts across the city will be held, in a phased matter. The drill will be held by informing the local police station, zone wise. The schedule of the blackouts is being deliberated and will be finalised soon.





Civic defence members demonstrate how to stretcher out someone in case of emergency, at NIS High School in Uran —Faroog Sayed

### Ready for the worst: Citizens pick up life-saving protocols

**Kamal Mishra** 

MUMBAI

A civil defence team from Central Railway Wednesday conducted a mock drill at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

The drill simulated various scenarios to test the effectiveness of safety protocols. One of the key elements was the activation of air raid sirens, followed by a demonstration of how citizens can ensure their safety by adopting precautionary proper measures, including the correct technique for assuming a prone position to minimise risks during such alerts.

The drill included demonstrations on how to safely lift and transport an injured person without the aid of a stretcher. Another scenario addressed was the management of severe blood

The drill also covered fire safety protocols. Participants demonstrated how to handle fire emergencies in the absence of an extinguisher, using alternative methods to control flames. Additionally, the correct operation of fire extinguishers for tackling different types of fires was demonstrated.

As part of the exercise, Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel also conducted separate and joint security drills.

The GRP and RPF carried out a route march, patrolling, and checks at various railway stations, Mumbai Police said.

Civil Defence Services personnel and volunteers in Mumbai -PTI

hour, and involved CR's civil defence team. During the exercise, civil defence volunteers in yellow T-shirts simulated various scenarios to assess coordination, response time and overall readiness,

A senior official noted that CR has about 850 civil defence volunteers spread across five divisions: Mumbai, Solapur, Pune, Bhusawal and Nagpur. Each division has its own civil defence team, in addition to separate teams in railway workshops.

officials said.

Similar exercises were conducted across other railway stations and workshops on the CR network, including The drill began around LTT Mumbai, Dadar, 3pm and lasted for over an Matunga, Manmad.

#### **IN BRIEF**

The drill began around 3pm and lasted for over an hour, and involved CR's civil defence team

During the exercise, civil defence volunteers in yellow Tshirts simulated various scenarios

A senior official noted that Central Railway has about 850 civil defence volunteers spread across five divisions: Mumbai, Solapur, Pune, **Bhusawal and Nagpur** 





### A siren, then a race to rescue the 'injured'

**FPJ News Service** MUMBAI

At 4pm, a siren blared at Cross Maidan amid heavy rain. It set off a flurry of activity, part of a drill simulating an air strike, and teams of civil defence, fire brigade and paramedics rushing to save the "injured".

Organised under Operation Abhyas, the exercise involved coordinated efforts from multiple emergency response

The sound of the siren signalled a simulated bombardment on a building. Three explosions were depicted, leading to a fire.

Volunteers took shelter in a nearby safe zone and were instructed to remain there until the Civil Defence issued an all-clear signal. Civil Defence volunteers, upon hearing the sirens, rushed to the scene and immediately began rescue operations.

An Incident Control Officer (ICO), along with a reconnaissance team, arrived to assess the situation, including checking for any radiation or evidence of a dirty bomb being used in the simulated strike. The area was quickly cordoned off, and rescue oper-

ations commenced. Soon after, fire department personnel joined the effort to rethe injured to hospitals.

extinguish the blaze. The drill portraved casualties, with "injured" individuals being rushed to Bombay Hospital

and Nair Hospital. A team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) also arrived, including their specialised unit trained to handle CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) threats.

One of the key scenes showed individuals trapped in a four-storey building being rescued by personnel from the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Civil Defence, and the fire brigade. Despite heavy rainfall, trained volunteers from Civil Defence, Home Guards, NCC, and NSS performed their duties alongside official rescue agencies.

Speaking to the media after the drill, Civil Defence Director Prabhat Kumar noted that several agencies, including the district administration, BMC, fire brigade, NDRF, Home Guards, NCC, NSS and paramedic staff, participated in the exercise.

He stated that the mock drill simulated a rescue operation following a "bomb attack" on a building by the enemy, involving a coordinated multiagency response to evacuate those trapped and transport

### Fear is gone now. We have broken free



The partner has stood up at last! She was beaten up regularly! Initially she protested but later believed that this violence was normal. This is my life! That was India of the past! Surgical strike changed the scenario partially.

Kandahar, Pathankot, Mumbai serial blasts, Parliament attack transformed India into a spouse that suffered from 'Learned Helplessness'. Kadi ninda, crawling in front of the West and helplessness were the pathological behaviours India continuously displayed.

Collectively we broke it. The country showed courage and exposed the bully. The fears are gone. We broke free from the Stockholm Syndrome that was perpetuated by our inexperienced counsellors (leaders) hand in glove with the enemy!

We believed that talks would help and 'aman ki asha' would help. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi believed that Jinnah could be convinced to shed the two-nation theory. It did not work and we did not learn the lessons. The psychopaths cannot be tamed. He will destroy his kith and kin too. And the abuse of India continued. We

were bled largely after 1971. Retribution and rational

proportionate retaliation

helps justice. It helps healing.

The country is breathing a sense of relief! While working with victims of disaster, I found that agitation against the government and effectively

redressing the grievances

assisted healing. We have no guilt nor shame. And one psychological change in the collective consciousness is that now we do not really bother about how others feel about our actions.

It's a replay of the Mahabharata, which will continue till the thought of terror, terrorism and psychopathic destruction is thwarted.

Psychological counselling went on and the psychopaths kept on fooling the professionals (our leaders).

We stretched out philosophy of 'karuna' and 'satyagraha' for too long. Pathological self-destructive suicide was the sickness. This was the consequence of being enslaved

for more than 1,000 years. As a natural consequence, the psychopaths who misinterpret religion or ideologies are being handed over to the warriors: Arjuna, Krishna and the other Pandavas are acting and will continue doing it till 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' is

The Asuras and the Devas are at war. The civilisational awakening is occurring at jet speed. It is asserting not to conquer but to decimate criminals.

(The author is a noted **Mumbai-based psychiatrist)** 



# **KEY PLAYERS** Civil Defence

District administration

**BMC** 



Fire brigade

**NDRF** Home Guards

NCC

National Service Scheme

**Paramedics** 

Bombay Hospital, Nair Hospital

**Demos** 

Fire safety measures

Methods for

extinguishing fires

Procedures to follow during air strikes

Techniques for rescuing and reviving injured civilians

workshops

Civil defence volunteers spread across five CR divisions: Mumbai, Solapur, Pune, Bhusawal and Nagpur. Each division has its own civil defence team, in addition to

separate teams in railway



Firefighters take part in a drill conducted amid rains -PTI



**RELIEF AND SATISFACTION** | Loved ones hail government's decision to attack Pakistani targets and say terrorism must be destroyed

### Families of Dombivli victims: They can now rest in peace

**NK Gupta** 

The family members of three individuals from Dombivli who were killed in Pahalgam - Atul Mone, Sanjay Lele and Hemant Joshi – on Wednesday expressed relief over the destruction of Pakistani terrorist hideouts.

"I received a message from my friend on Wednesday 2.30am about a strike in Pakistan," said Harshal Lele, son of Sanjay Lele. "My father and two uncles were among the 26 people killed in the Pahalgam attack. They can now rest in peace."

"There shouldn't be just one attack. We must continue to eliminate terrorists. I agree with the Indian government's press release, which stated that this is just the beginning. A total of nine missiles were launched, and all terrorist assets should be destroyed. Pakistan won't change, and such operations must continue. Even after we retaliated twice, they dared to strike again – this time targeting tourists and killing mostly Hindus."



Anushka Mone (above, **right)**, the wife of Atul Mone, expressed satisfaction with the Indian Army's response. "After the strike in Pakistan, I felt a sense of peace and satisfaction. Those who died in Pahalgam would have now rest in peace."

"I trusted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Operation Sindoor has been launched, and it is just the beginning of our revenge. The terror routes must be eliminated. I support the nation wholeheartedly," she said.

Reflecting on her loss, she added, "Atul will never return to us, but our family has found peace through this action. It's a good step."

Rucha Mone (above, left), the daughter of Atul Mone, said she felt relieved upon hearing about the attack. "I'm

announcing their support for

the government. Social media

groups drew attention to the

fact that Colonel Sophia

Pakistan deserves

it. If we continue

this offensive tor some

What happened in

religion

days, Pakistan will stop its

terror operations in India.

Pahalgam was shameful;

after asking them their

the terrorists killed people

— Yusuf Abrahani

Party leader

Former MLA and Samajwadi

The Board fully

supports the

Prime Minister [Narendra

armed forces in retaliating

against Pakistan. Innocent

civilians were killed, and

among the masses. This

will be addressed by the

territory of Jammu and

strikes in Pakistan and the

initiative taken by the

Modi] and the Indian

this resulted in rage

Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir

happy that India has taken action. Operation Sindoor is a success. It has just begun, and I hope it continues until we eliminate terrorism."

Jayant Bhave, the father-inlaw of Hemant Joshi, stated, "The Indian government has taken the right step. I've been waiting for such a response. This operation is a true tribute to the three people we lost. The terrorists responsible must be punished. This mission will certainly help reduce terrorism."

In response to the strike, a group of women took to the streets holding 'sindoor' and placards reading 'Operation Sindoor Successful', 'Pahalgam Halla Ka Badla', along with a photo of Modi. They chanted slogans like, "Sun le bachcha Pakistan, tera baap Hindustan."

#### **WR** implements new security measures

Western Railway (WR) authorities have implemented a sweeping set of security measures across the Mumbai Central Division, covering both longdistance and suburban stations.



**WR** has deployed Armed **Quick Response Teams** at key stations, enabling swift intervention in case of emergencies. Additionally, joint flag marches by the Railway **Protection Force (RPF)** and Government Railway Police (GRP) are being conducted to bolster public confidence and deter criminal activity.

#### **SCREENING PROTOCOLS**

Door frame metal detectors

Handheld metal detectors

Luggage scanners

Dog squads



Passengers are encouraged to remain vigilant

**Text: Kamal Mishra** 

**SURVEILLANCE** 

**UPGRADE** 

3,000 high-

resolution 4K

**CCTV** cameras

with night vision in

Of these, 1,000 cameras

are equipped with facial

recognition technology

suburban section

**ON GROUND** 

Ramped up train

escorting services

vulnerable zones

**HELPLINES** 

**Railways** 

1512 GRP

139

Increased patrolling in

SAFETY

and immediately report any suspicious activity or unattended items. Awareness campaigns and frequent public announcements are being conducted to familiarise commuters with safety



### **Authorities assess** nuclear, chemical contamination risk



**Mumbai:** Sirens blared, people scrambled for safety, and emergency responders rushed into action as mock drills were conducted at multiple locations in state on Wednesday, simulating air strikes and assessing chemical or nuclear "contamination" post an "attack".

An official said the overall response time was about three minutes, but a detailed analysis is being done.

A blackout was conducted at 8pm in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) residential complex in Anushakti Nagar. However, a similar blackout, scheduled at Tarapur in Palghar district, was cancelled.

"After a siren was blared, residents of the BARC resito come out of their quarters as part of the drill. They were sensitised about the precautions to be taken during the emergency situation," an official said on Wednesday night.

He said BARC officials, police, and personnel of various security agencies participated in the drill.

A blackout was conducted at two places in Mumbai during the drills, the official said.

Away from Mumbai, drills were also held at Nutan High School in Kalyan, Gangapur Road in Nashik, Council Hall in Pune, Panchayat office at Uran, Tehsil office at Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri, and Tarapur in Maharashtra.

#### **Closure of** airports hits city travellers

**MUMBAI:** The escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan has caused worries to thousands of air travellers. Customer support centres of airlines are flooding with distress calls from those who have booked their flights on cancelled routes. This also includes flights connecting Mumbai Airport with the airports shut till May 10. Several tourists from Mumbai are stuck at these closed airports.

Mumbai-based Umesh Bhoir went to Manali with his wife and 10-year-old son but the family is now stuck as their return flight was from Chandigarh. "Since the airline told me that I was eligible for a free refund, I cancelled our tickets and booked new tickets from Delhi. However, we are in Kasol now and there are no transportation options available to travel to Delhi. We will now possibly take a train from Ambala to Mumbai."

Travellers also took to social media to express their worries and ask about their flights' status. Pruthvi Pokar, an X user, wrote to Air India saying, "My flight from Bhuj to Mumbai on 9th May was cancelled by your airline. Confirm immediately whether the 10th May flight at 8:55 AM is operating. I would appreciate help with rescheduling."

-FPJ News Service

### 'I got emotional after seeing mission name'

**FPJ News Service** 

MUMBAI

Pragati Jagdale, wife of Santosh Jagdale, who was killed in the April 22 Pahalgam attack, said on Wednesday that she was emotional after learning the name of Operation Sindoor.

"I express my gratitude for naming the operation 'Sindoor'. Terrorists erased the sindoor of the women. I got very emotional after reading the name. I can't speak much," Jagdale said at her residence here.

Asavari Jagdale, her daughter, appreciated the efforts taken by the government and the Indian armed forces to avenge the loss of innocent lives.

She also said that India had paid homage and served justice to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack by initiating Operation Sindoor.

"We got calls from our relatives [about Operation Sindoor]. India has avenged the Pahalgam attack through these air strikes. I was extremely emotional after hearing the name [Sindoor] of the mission. When Home Minister Amit Shah came to Srinagar to pay homage to those who were given 'veer maran', the sisters who lost their husbands were pleading. I think that is why the operation was called 'Sindoor'," Asavari said.

"The loss of husbands and fathers was not in vain. India has paid actual homage to them (victims) by striking. I want to thank for the justice served within 15 days," she added.

at Siddhivinayak **Temple** 

**Special prayers** 



Temple will hold prayers on Thursday morning to thank the Lord for the success of Operation Sindoor. The temple administration said that in light of the successful missile strikes conducted by the Indian armed forces, a special puja and aarti will be held at the temple on May 8 from 8.30am to 9.0 am. "It was a good step by the government, so the temple trust decided to hold special prayers for blessings from the Lord," said Veena More Patil, chief executive officer of the temple trust.

-FPJ News Service

### Muslim groups: Justice is served

**FPJ News Service** MUMBAI

Justice is served: This was the overwhelming emotion as Muslim groups reacted to India's 'Operation Sindoor' on Wednesday.



Raza Academy members celebrating Operation Sindoor by distributing sweets -Salman Ansari

We congratulate our armed forces for launching this campaign against terrorists and enemies of the nation. It is also clear that we are not fighting any country, but targeting terrorism. We have always stood and will continue to stand against terrorism. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our forces and fully support any decision made by our government and military — Saeed Noori

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind considers terrorism a serious threat and a heinous crime against humanity, and deems its complete eradication essential for the safety, security, and peace of the country and its people

Raza Academy president

— Syed Sadatullah Hussaini, President of Jamaat-E-Islami Hind **Court refuses** bail to IM operative **Charul Shah Joshi** 

MUMBAI

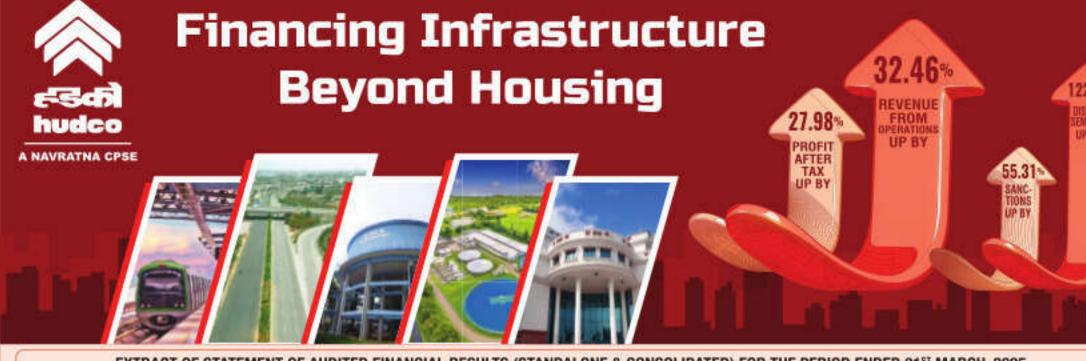
A special sessions court has refused to grant bail to Afzal Usmani, alleged to be a key accused in the 2008 Gujarat blasts and an Indian Mujahideen (IM) operative, noting that he has already been awarded capital punishment by a court in connection with the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blast case.

While rejecting his bail plea, the court stated, "The plea of innocence of the accused is not acceptable. The offences alleged against the accused and the coaccused in this case relate to national security. Their impact on the nation and society is quite significant."

Usmani had approached the special court from Ahmedabad Central Prison, where he has been behind bars for 15 years, seeking bail. The prosecution objected to his plea, stating that Usmani had committed serious offences involving the use of four stolen cars for planting and detonating bombs in Ahmedabad and Surat. The applicant/accused himself had stolen the cars for that purpose and supplied them to his co-accused. He is an active associate of the Students Islamic Movement of India.

It is claimed that after the blasts, several emails were sent to multiple locations, taking responsibility for the attacks. A separate case was also registered by the Mumbai Police in connection with the IM conspiracy, in which Usmani was booked.

Usmani, however, pleaded innocence, arguing that he was being subjected to double jeopardy. However, — Mansoor Khan the court disagreed and President, Shia Islamic Board rejected his bail plea.



			STANDA	LONE		CONSOLI	DATED
SI.	DADTION ARE	QUARTER	ENDED	YEAR EI	NDED	YEAR ENDED	
No.	PARTICULARS	31/03/25 (AUDITED)	31/03/24 (AUDITED)	31/03/25 (AUDITED)	31/03/24 (AUDITED)	31/03/25 (AUDITED)	31/03/24 (AUDITED)
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	2,844.99	2,065.22	10,311.29	7,784.29	10,311.29	7,784.29
2	Net Profit for the Period (before tax & exceptional items)	1,020.26	943.12	3,636,66	2,843.44	3,636.66	2,843.39
3	Net Profit for the Period before tax (after exceptional items)	1,020.26	943.12	3,636.66	2,843.44	3,636.66	2,843.39
4	Net Profit for the Period after tax (after exceptional items)	727.74	700.16	2,709.14	2,116.74	2,709.14	2,116.69
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit for the period (after tax)) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	627.38	713.63	2,544.34	2,136.52	2,544.34	2,136.4
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (FV - ₹10/- each)	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001,90	2,001.90	2,001.90	2,001.90
7	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	N.A.	N.A.	15,967.89	14,612.40	15,966.15	14,610.66
8	Securities Premium Account	N.A.	N.A.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26
9	Net Worth	N.A.	N.A.	17,969.79	16,614.30	17,968.05	16,612.56
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt*		-	1,07,280.61	74,032.22	1,07,280.61	74,032.22
11	Debt Equity Ratio	N.A.	N.A.	5.72	4.05	5.72	4.05
12	Earning Per Share (FV – ₹10/– each) (The EPS for quarters are not annualised) i) Basic	3.64	3.50	13.53	10.57	13.53	10.57
	ii) Diluted	3.64	3.50	13.53	10.57	13.53	10.57
13	Debenture Redemption Reserve**(as at year end)	N.A.	N.A.	2,965.69	2,726.11	2,965.69	2,726.11

- 1. The above financial results of the company have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 07th May, 2025. These financial results have also been Audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- 2. The Board of the Company recommended a Final Dividend @ ₹1.05 per share of ₹10 each subject to approval in the AGM. The Company also paid Interim Dividend-I @ ₹2.05 and Interim Dividend-II ₹1.05 per share respectively. Thus, total dividend for FY 2024–25 is ₹830.79 Crore i.e 41.50% of the Face Value of the shares.
- 3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results is available on the websites of BSE Limited (URL:www.bseindia.com/corporates), National Stock Exchange of India Limited (URL:

PRODUCTS & SERVICES



epaper.freepressjournal.in

Place: Mumbai

Date: 07.05.2025

TRAINING

4. The other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulation, pertinent disclosures have been made to the websites of BSE Limited (URL: www.bseindia.com/corporates), National Stock Exchange of India Limited (URL: www.nseindia.com/corporates) and the same is also available on the company's website (URL: www.hudco.org.in).

www.nseindia.com/corporates) and the same is also available on the company's website (URL

5. There is no change in the accounting policy during the quarter/ year ended period, hence there is no change(s) in accounting policies.

impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s) due to For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of India Undertaking)



Sanjay Kulshrestha

Chairman & Managing Director

REGISTERED OFFICE: HUDCO Bhawan, Core 7A, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 CIN: L74899DL1970G0I005276 | GSTIN: 07AAACH0632A1ZF Website: www.hudco.org.in | Follow us on: f | ma



### **IPC vs BNS: Crime** law exam mix-up across 53 centres

**Vikrant Jha MUMBAI** 

A massive administrative blunder by the University of Mumbai (MU) disrupted the 'Law of Crimes' exam on Wednesday, affecting hundreds of students across all 53 exam centres. The MU later issued a brief statement confirming the error.

The confusion stemmed from a failure to differentiate between students appearing for the Allowed to Keep Terms (ATKT) exam under the old syllabus and regular students under the revised curriculum. As a result, question papers based on the newly introduced Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, were distributed to all candidates, including those who were to be tested under the old outdated Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The exam was scheduled from 10.30am to 1pm, but the invigilators came rushing in an hour later, saying there had been a mistake, a student from three-year LLB programme said. "They took back the papers and said we would be given a new set. We lost nearly an hour and had to start all over again," the student said.

Despite the university replacing the question papers mid-exam, reports surfaced that some colleges continued to direct even the regular students, those under the BNS syllabus, to write answers based on the newly arrived IPC paper, citing university instructions.

"In our college, after the replacement papers arrived, the staff told us to write the IPC paper which came just for the ATKT students. They insisted that this was the only version sent by the university, even though we were taught the BNS-based syllabus," said

#### **IN BRIEF**

Students appearing for ATKT exam under the old syllabus were to take the IPC exam

Regular students were to take the BNS exam under the revised curriculum

Exam scheduled from 10.30am to igcup 1pm, but the invigilators came rushing an hour later, saying there had been a mistake (with BNS exam circulated to all)

**Students lost** nearly an hour; many others told to continue with BNS

another student.

Student organisations and senate members slammed the incident, calling it a systemic failure. "The university's examination department has become synonymous with disorganisation. When a mix-up of this scale happens at all 53 centres, it's no longer a mistake; it's negligence," said Pradeep Sawant, a Yuva Sena senate member. This chaos unfolded amid

already existing confusion over exam schedules. Two separate timetables were released; one for first year LLB (3 years) semester II students and another for BA LLB (5 years) semester VI students. The revised timetable for the three-year programme was released only on April 28, while the five-year course had its schedule published a month earlier on March 29. Students and colleges received conflicting interpretations, which added to the anxiety.

#### One too many: **Admissions at** 229 colleges suspended over lapses

**Vikrant Jha** MUMBAI

The University of Mumbai (MU), on Wednesday, announced the suspension of the first-year undergraduate admission process for 229 affiliated colleges for 2025-26, citing non-compliance with mandatory accreditation and governance norms.

The university said that these colleges had failed to secure or renew accreditation the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), and had not established the mandatory College Development Committee (CDC) as required under the Maharashtra

Public Universities Act, 2016. The university added that a fine of Rs10,000 has also been levied on these institutions, further noting that the decision was approved by the Management Council after serious deliberation.

Section 97 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act mandates that every affiliated, autonomous, empowered college and recognised institution must constitute a CDC. Similarly, under Section 110(4) of the Act, every affiliated college is required to ensure accreditation or reaccreditation by NAAC or NBA. The suspension is being seen as one of the most significant regulatory actions by MU in recent years, with implications for thousands of prospective students.

229 Total non-compliant colleges

156 Failed to meet NAAC/NBA requirements

73 Did not set up the CDC

LAST DITCH EFFORTS | BMC scrambling to meet May 31 deadline for road concreting works; 83.36% still remaining; AMC Abhijit Bangar says, in exceptional cases, civic body will ensure junction-to-junction completion

### City is a literal ditch as BMC limps to meet May 31 deadline

**Devashri Bhujbal** MUMBAI

As much as 83.36% of the cement concreting work of Mumbai's roads remains to be completed, with heavy rainfall reminding the BMC of its May 31 deadline. The Rs17,700 crore mega project has made a mess of the metropolis, with contractors violating every single rule.

There are widespread complaints of shoddy work. In some cases, perfectly good roads and pavements are being done much to the anger of local citizens. In Bandra, citizens came together to stop the digging of a good road. Former corporators like Asif Zakaria and Sheetal

corruption in the project. The BMC has undertaken cement concretisation of a total of 2,121 roads, including phases 1 and 2, stretching to a total length of 700km. As per the data accessed by the FPJ, as of May 5, the concretisation of 353 roads is completed and work is in progress on 1,768

Mhatre have alleged massive

Although the BMC reiterates that it will try to complete as much work as possible by May 31, citizens are sceptical of the quality of work. In a recent inspection carried out by additional municipal commissioner (AMC, Projects) Abhijit Bangar, substandard dry concrete mix was found at a road work site, after which a fine of Rs75,000 was imposed on the contractor, and a BMC sub-engineer was suspended too.

When asked if BMC will be able to meet its deadline, Bangar said, "Our effort is to complete all ongoing works till May 31. In exceptional cases where road work is not getting completed, we will ensure junction-to-junction





completion of the road." ₹17,700 crore

"It is alarming that only 16% of the road concretisation work has been completed, even as we approach the second week of May. In the K East Ward, 19 projects are being handled under the supervision of a single junior engineer from the maintenance department. This clearly points to inadequate staffing for effective monitoring of the works. Moreover, it reflects a serious lapse in oversight by senior BMC officials," said Godfrey Pimenta, trustee of Watchdog Foundation.

"Completing a road also includes pavements and roadside drains. We have to think of pedestrians and not only for the motorists to make the roads motorable before monsoon," activist Debi Goenka

"Every second road in the



Kamlabai Kanya Shala Marg, Charni Road

**PROJECT COST** 

**2,121** Roads **353** Completed **1,768** In progress Phase 1

> Total **700 roads** (321 km) Completed **278** (76 km)

> In Progress **422** (136 km) Completed **39.71**%

In Progress **60.29**% Phase 2

Total **1412 (379 km)** Completed 75 (10 km) In Progress 1346 (286 km)

Completed **5.31**% In Progress **95.33**%





standard work is not toler-

city is dug up. We can't recognise our own city. It is visible ated." that all work won't be completed by May 31," activist Anil Galgali, a resident of Kurla, said. "What was the hurry to start work on over 2,000 roads at a time? Instead of two phases, concretisation could have been undertaken in four phases. Now, with less than a month left to make all roads motorable, the quality cannot be ensured," Galgali said.

However, AMC Bangar said that there will be no compromise in the quality of work. "Apart from a quality monitoring agency and BMC engineers who regularly inspect the site, we have a third party appointed, IIT Bombay, to ensure the quality of the concretisation work carried out. Additionally, senior officials also carry out surprise inspections. Any sub-

Bangar also said that Mumbaikars are already suffering from extensive road works and if any road is left half-done, it will create more problems during the monsoon. "We have told contractors not to commence any new road work," Bangar said, adding that remaining work will be carried post-monsoon.

However, another senior BMC officer said that out of the remaining 83% of the road works, 50% will be completed before the monsoon. "For the incomplete road concretisation, work will be stopped from May 31 at the then existing length. The remaining work will be carried forward in the next season. To make the roads motorable, patch works will be undertaken," he

# 

#### plastic life

Ferry passengers oblivious of garbage floating in sea at the Gateway of India jetty - Salman Ansari

### Safety turn for 15 fatal spots on old Mum-Pune h'way

**Sweety Bhagwat** 

Fifteen fatality-prone locations along the old Mumbai-Pune Highway (NH-48) have undergone significant safety upgrades through a collaborative effort led by SaveLIFE Foundation, in partnership with the Maharashtra State Development Road (MSRDC) Corporation Limited, the highway police, Highways Infrastructure Trust. This

88 deaths last year. SaveLIFE said the initiative is aimed at addressing the root causes of road crashes by focusing on road engineering, law enforcement, and emerg-

ency response. The project began with a comprehensive road safety assessment using field surveys and data analysis to identify high-risk zones. Based on these findings, specific road engineering solutions – referred to as safety treatments - were intro-

duced (see box). Dr Zafar Khan, the executive director and Joint CEO of

#### **MEASURES**

Clearer signage ■ Speed-calming

■ Enhanced pedestrian

Improved visibility

Redesigned intersections to reduce collisions

Infrastructure

Highways

stretch of highway recorded Trust, said that the state recorded over 15.000 road crash fatalities last year, majority of them on high-The trust, with SaveLIFE, is introducing speed-calming measures, improving pedestrian crossing visibility, and reinforcing lane discipline, with an aim to reduce fatalities on the corridor by 20-30% over the coming years.

> In addition to infrastructure changes, enforcement strategies have also been put in place to promote better compliance with traffic rules and encourage safer driving behaviour.

#### 600 B'deshis detained in 4 months

MUMBAI: A total of 600 Bangladeshis were detained from January to April with 350 registered, Joint Commissioner of Police (law and order) Satyanarayan Chaudhary said. These illegal immigrants will be deported back to their home country immediately without registering criminal cases, sources said. In Mumbai alone, over 150 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants have been detained in the past four days. The process of deporting them has also been initiated. Since 2024, the state and Mumbai police have intensified their operations against illegal settlers. The crackdown grew more rigorous in 2025, with January to March witnessing the highest number of actions.

#### 3 killed by speeding bus

Three people were killed **1** and two vehicles, including a police jeep and a scooter, were left severely damaged after a speeding passenger bus drove through a crowded market near the district hospital in Mangon around 4pm on Tuesday. The CCTV footage from the area confirmed the bus driver's offence.

#### MUMBAI The Judicial Magistrate First (JMFC) of the Esplanade court has disposed of a theft case registered by the Taj Mahal Hotel in 1991

33 yrs on, Taj Hotel

against a 22-year-old IIT Powai student. Acquitting the man of the alleged theft charges, the court held that since the police have not been able to trace the accused, complainant or any witnesses in the case, there is no point in keeping the matter pending for 33 years and 10 months.

Pranali Lotlikar

The court said, "The matter is so old that there is no possibility of the accused or the witnesses appearing before the court or even before the police. Hence, abiding by the High Court's directions, such cases need to be addressed and disposed of promptly."

The prosecution's case dates back to July 5, 1991,

key theft case closes when a case was filed against Lalit Narayan, who resided at the IIT hostel. The complainant in the case, Veliya Gurucharan Singh, a security guard at the hotel, stated he was on duty when the hotel manager informed him that Lalit had allegedly stolen a key from the reception and used it to stay at the hotel. The alleged theft came to light when Lalit returned the key to the disco manager, who recognised it as belonging to a room that had been locked for renovation.

When the hotel manager and the security guard questioned Lalit about how he obtained the key to the locked room, he allegedly failed to provide a satisfactory explanation. Consequently, a case was registered against him under section 380 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The case was subsequently registered at the Colaba police sta-

### Bank in big controversy over ₹7.25 cr deal for ex-CEA's book

**Somendra Sharma** 

MUMBAI

Following reports that Union Bank of India spent an estimated Rs7.25 crore to buy nearly 200,000 copies of a book authored by former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the bank, in its communication to the stock exchange, has acknowledged "certain lapses in the procurement". The book is titled 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse'.

However, the bank stated in the communication that the information reported "does not have any material impact on its operations or financials at this stage". The bank's general manager has also been suspended. The government also recalled Subramanian from the IMF six months prior to the expiry

of his tenure with the world body. Meanwhile, a query by the FPJ to the corporate communications department of the bank did not elicit any response.

As per the bank's communication, the bank is examining the "lapses in the procurement". It clarified that the subject matter does not fall under the criteria prescribed

BY THE BOOK?

for material events as per Regulation 30 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. "There is no such information which is not disclosed by the bank and has an impact on the movement of the trading of the bank's securities. Therefore, disclosure under Regulation 30 is not warranted, and at present there are no regulatory / legal proceedings arising on account of this matter. The said article does not have any

material impact on the bank," the bank informed the stock exchange.

Media reports had claimed that such a large number of copies was reportedly purchased by the bank to distribute among "customers/ local schools/ colleges/ libraries, etc". The reports said that the bank's central office ordered 189,450 paperback and 10,422 hardcover copies of the book priced at Rs350 and

Rs597, respectively. Meanwhile, the bank's MD and CEO, A Manimekhalai, will complete her three-year term at the bank on June 30, and she is eligible for an extension as she would superannuate only in March 2026. However, there are reports that in April Manimekhalai wrote to the central government stating that she does not want an extension despite clearances from the Central

Vigilance Commission (CVC).

### Bomb threat note found in flight

**Poonam Apraj &** Dhairya Gajara MUMBAI

A serious security scare unfolded at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) after a note was found inside an incoming IndiGo flight from Chandigarh, threatening to blow up the aircraft. Upon receiving the threat, the Sahar police registered an offence and launched an investigation into the matter.

IndiGo's 6E 6382 departed from Chandigarh at 12.51pm on Tuesday. It received the bomb threat while it was airborne to Mumbai. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-8) Manish Kalwaniya, a note was found

The note was found in the toilet of the aircraft by the crew, who immediately informed the Air **Traffic Control** 

source related to the airport revealed that the information about the threat was provided to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) by the airline's crew on board.

As soon as the aircraft landed at CSMIA at 3.01pm, it was moved to an isolation bay and all the passengers were safely deboarded according to the standard security protocol. A thorough search was conducted by the police and security agencies, but no susinside the toilet of the plans of registous object was found.

The police have registered an FIR against an unknown individual and launched an investigation into the matter. Efforts are underway to trace the perpetrator, though no breakthrough has been reported vet.

The incident prompted a swift response from aviation and security officials, and all standard operating procedures (SOPs) were strictly followed to ensure the safety of passengers and crew, officials

"We deeply appreciate the patience, understanding, and cooperation of our customers. The safety of our customers is our highest priority, and we remain dedicated to ensuring a secure and smooth travel experience for all," said the airline.

#### Second chance for man who slashed GF's face **Charul Shah Joshi**

MUMBAI

The sessions court has convicted a 35-year-old Borivali resident for assaulting a woman he was allegedly in love with after she started distancing herself from him in September 2013. However, the court released the man, Mayur Bhatawala, on probation, stating that his actions were driven by the "passion of love" for the woman.

The court observed that Bhatawala was 24 years old when the incident occurred. "It seems he is the sole breadwinner of the family. The circumstances under which the offence was committed need to be considered. The court's approach in sentencing such offenders should always be reformative," the court said. The duo met through a

social networking site and became friends. She was working at a beauty parlour and he visited her frequently. He proposed marriage, but the parlour's owner advised her against a relationship with him as he was unemployed.

On September 10, 2013, the accused appeared outside the beauty parlour, attempting to meet her. As she refused, he began banging on the door. Frightened, she asked the owner for help and instructed the watchman not to open the door. He returned the next day and threatened suicide, issuing further threats later and attacking her with a blade, injuring her face.

### Woman strangles BF bizman in Malad hotel; arrested from Gujarat

**FPJ News Service** 

The Dindoshi police have arrested a woman from Gujarat for allegedly killing a 47-year-old man, who was also her relative, with whom she reportedly had an extra-mariaffair. The victim, Imamuddin Mansuri, an interior decorator, was found

dead in a Malad hotel on May 4. The accused, Barkat Rathod, was arrested days later from Surat after trying to mislead the police by making the murder appear as a sui-

Rathod is the wife of Mansuri's brother-in-law and their family had reportedly come to know about their affair, after which her hus-

band severed ties with her. The two had checked in at the Shalimar hotel near the Malad station and Rathod is said to have strangled Mansuri during an argument.

Later, she apparently sent a message from his phone to the family's WhatsApp group, which read that Mansuri was ending his life due to stress. Alarmed by the message,

Mansuri's son, sought help from the police, who swiftly traced the victim to the hotel. He was found unconscious and taken to a hospital where he was declared dead.

However, a postmortem revealed neck injuries. Using mobile tracking, the police nabbed Rathod, reportedly confessed to the crime.

**IN BRIEF** 

impacted

rainfall

says IMD

More than 100 tree

branches collapsed;

local train services

Powai, BKC, Aarey

Colony, Versova,

Showers are likely

two to three days,

a maximum temperature of

33.8 degrees Celsius. Colaba saw 3 mm rainfall and a maxi-

mum temperature of 32.4 degrees. However, there will

be not much relief from

humidity, which is likely to

increase as the western winds

management team, in a span

of one hour from 4pm to 5

pm, when the thunderstorms

were most intense, 13 tree branches collapsed. The pre-

monsoon rains also disrupted

the local train services on

both the Central and Western

lines during the evening peak

hours. The Western Railway

suburban services were

affected after a tree branch

fell on an Overhead

Equipment. Slow trains were

briefly halted, while other ser-

vices were behind schedule

Few mainline services were

delayed on the Central

Railway, while trains on the

harbour line were running

late too.

due to the cascading effect.

As per the BMC disaster

are pulling in moisture.

to continue for next

A Nariman Point

received highest

### Pre-monsoon rains drench city, MMR; IMD continues yellow alert









1) Inundated JJ flyover 2) Crane crashes at incomplete Byculla bldg 3) Tree collapses in Tata Garden, Breach Candy 4)Strong winds rip off scaffolding near JJ Hosp 5) Tree falls in Byculla

Pics: Salman Ansar



#### **Devashri Bhujbal** MUMBAI

For the second consecutive day, Mumbai and its metropolitan areas were lashed by pre-monsoon rains accompanied with lightning on Wednesday. As per the weather department, the showers are likely to continue

for the next two to three days. Although the rains have brought respite from heat, thunderstorms coupled with gusty winds led to the collapse of over 100 tree branches and also impacted local train services. Bhandup, Powai, LBS Road, BKC, Aarey Colony, Versova, Masjid and Nariman Point received the highest rainfall.

A yellow alert, warning of rainfall with thunderstorms today, was in place for the districts of Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad. There is a possibility of moderate to heavy rainfall in the suburbs. per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mumbai city and suburbs will witness cloudy skies accompanied with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds with speed reaching 50-60 kmph at isolated places today.

On Wednesday afternoon, IMD issued alerts for Mumbai, Thane and Palghar, warning of moderate rains, thunderstorms and gusty winds with speed reaching 50-60 kmph. Mumbai suburbs received more rainfall than the city area. As per the IMD, by 5.30pm, Santacruz recorded 21.2 mm rainfall and

Three people, including two passengers and an auto driver, were killed after a large tree fell on their vehicle during heavy winds in Kalyan on Tuesday night

n a similar mishap on Wednesday, an auto driver was injured, while a passenger was killed after a tree collapsed on the three-wheeler in Thane city

### Tonnes of removed silt goes down the drain

**FPJ News Service** 

Hundreds of tonnes of silt removed from storm water drains by BMC contractors went back into the drains following heavy rains on Wednesday evening. With the regular monsoon not far away, there is a strong possibility of flooding.

City BJP vice-president great inconvenience to Ravi Raja, who is a veteran excorporator, blamed the civic body for the situation. Talking

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to FPJ on Wednesday, he said, "As per rule, the muck removed from the drains and nullahs is supposed to be carted away after 48 hours." However, in most places, huge muck piles have not been removed by the contractors because there is no BMC supervision, he pointed out. For several days, heaps of muck are not cleared causing

He further said, "In any case, the BMC had received an

Actor Ajay Devgn has leased

of

period,

out a commercial

office unit in

Andheri West,

securing a rental

approx Rs3.3

crore over a five-

according to prop-

erty data reviewed

by Square Yards. The

fees totalling to Rs86,500.

agreement includes a security

deposit of Rs16.42 lakh, with

stamp duty and registration

The lease, registered

recently, involves a monthly

rent of Rs5.47 lakh for the first

three years, increasing to

citizens, Raja added.

alert about heavy rains from the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The civic administration should have gotten the contractors to take away the muck immediately."

Many citizens in the past have suggested that the silt removed from the drains should be cleared immediately. However, the silt is often wet and hence it is left to dry for two days so that the weight of water does not get added to transport costs.

Activist Anand Shirali said,

"A week ago, the IMD had alerted the BMC and other agencies about the possibility of thunder showers." What prevented the civic officials from ordering the immediate removal of piles of silt, which remained outside the drains for over 48 hours, asked

Now, the question is whether the contractors will demand double payment for removing the silt, which has flowed back into the drains after the Wednesday rains.

### Ajay Devgn leases out office space for

Initiative launched on Wednesday in presence of **FPJ News Service** 

MUMBAI

income

year

CM Devendra Fadnavis, his deputy Eknath Shinde

#### **Benefits**

Live bus arrival times, routes and delays on Google Maps

**Estimated arrival times** will be in green or red, depending on traffic

Data will be updated in

real-time through BEST's internal systems Updates in Marathi,

Hindi, English languages

**BEST stats** 2,700 | 32L pax Daily

strength ridership **Text: Kamal Mishra**  5 years at ₹3.3 crore Rs6.29 lakh for the remaining two years. The property, spanning 2,545 sq ft of carpet area,

is located in the premium commercial project 'Signature Lotus'. The tenant is Bombay Design Centre Private Limited. The leased

unit is a part of a

trio of adjacent spaces, which Devgn purchased in April 2023 for Rs30.35 crore (approx Rs10.12 crore per unit). Based on the lease terms and acquisition cost, the rental yield is estimated at 6.5% for the initial term and 7.5% for the latter period.

#### **CSMIA** to shut for 6 hrs today

**FPJ News Service** MUMBAI

The Chhatrapati Shivaji International Maharaj Airport (CSMIA) will remain closed for six hours today (May 8) for annual pre-monsoon maintenance. Both the runways will remain nonoperational from 11am to 5pm. The airport said that a 'notice to airmen' was issued six months in advance, enabling airlines to adjust their schedules well ahead of time. In its April 20 edition, FPJ had reported that the primary and secondary runways -09/27 and 14/32, respectively

- will be temporarily nonoperational today. Specialists will inspect runway surfaces for wear and tear, addressing preventive measures for waterlogging to ensure safe landings and take-offs during

**KEY RULING | Plan has administrative nods, says high court;** locals have been vehemently opposing the multi-crore project

### Project in public interest: HC refuses to stay SoBo jetty work

Urvi Mahajani

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday refused to stay ongoing construction work related to the proposed passenger jetty and terminal facilities near the Gateway of India, observing that "the project is in public interest".

The south Mumbai residents are vehemently opposing the multi-crore project, citing environmental and heritage concerns. They have also filed a public interest litigation (PIL) followed by an interim application. However, the court pointed out that the project has proceeded through due administrative approvals.

A division bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice M S Karnik was hearing an interim application filed by the Clean and Heritage Colaba Residents Association (CHCRA), which alleged that the authorities had breached an earlier assurance by beginning piling work at the site despite promising

**RESIDENTS SAY...** 

**Process of fixing** concrete piles into seabed involves heavy drilling and hammering

This can cause structural damage to sea wall and nearby heritage buildings

GOVERNMENT

Their application is an afterthought and amounts to an abuse of

not to demolish the sea-facing wall until June 20.

India, marked for demolition to facilitate the project, will not be broken before June 20. However, the CHCRA, represented by Advocate Prerak Chaudhary, submitted that on May 3, piling equipment and material were brought back to

**REBUTS...** 

**Petitioners were aware** that project entails piling work; raised no objection earlier

the process

The court, while refusing to

interfere, clarified that the work will continue subject to the final outcome of the petition. "At this point, we are not inclined to stay the work," read the order. The HC will

hear CHCRA's PIL on June 16. On May 2, the government had assured the court that the wall near the Gateway of

the site. The association argued that "the process of fixing concrete piles into the seabed involves heavy drilling and hammering, which can cause structural damage to the sea wall and nearby heritage buildings". During the hearing on Wednesday, CHCRA's counsel Aspi Chenoy submitted that once installed, the piles would be "nearly impossible to remove," effectively turning the project into a fait accompli before the matter is fully adjudicated.

Advocate General Birendra Saraf, appearing for the government, told the court that the process for awarding the project began in July 2024.

"Petitioners were always aware that the project entails piling work. They had, in fact, agreed that work could begin from the sea side and had raised no objection earlier," he argued.

The government submitted that the contract was awarded on October 3, 2024, and the work order was issued on October 11. "There has been no change in circumstances since the last order (May 2). The petitioners are now seeking to halt the piling, which is an essential part of the project," Saraf said. This application is an afterthought and amounts to an abuse of the process, he said, adding that the project is to be completed in 30 months and is of vital public importance.

Meanwhile, another PIL regarding the same project – filed by three residents from Colaba and Cuffe Parade, representing over 150 individuals and businesses – also came up for hearing. The bench questioned the maintainability of multiple petitions on the same

### IIT-B gives idea to curb manhole lid thefts

**Shefali Parab -Pandit** 

MUMBAI

To curb the stealing of manhole cover, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has recommended the use of fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) grates, citing their dura-

bility of replacing iron covers with FRP grates.

During a recent inspection of Central Avenue Road in Santacruz West and Model Town Road in Andheri West.

were present during the visit, proposed the use of FRP

Experts said, "FRP grates, which are manufactured to high specifications, offer

bility and resistance to theft. the civic officials received superior durability and a The BMC has now directed complaints regarding such longer lifespan. Due to their officials to evaluate the feasi- thefts. IIT-B experts, who heavier weight compared to iron grates, they remain in place even during heavy rain water flow." Additionally, their non-metallic composition makes them less attractive to thieves, they added.



**AUM** - ₹ 25,531 Cr.

**DISBURSEMENT (FY 25)** - ₹ 8,192 Cr.

**NET PROFIT AFTER TAX (FY 25)** - ₹ 912 Cr.

**LIVE ACCOUNTS** - 2,99,000+

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STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

For the year For the quarter For the quarter ended March ended March 31, 2025 31, 2024 31, 2024 31, 2025 **PARTICULARS** Audited Audited Audited 2,58,682 83,261 69,180 3,10,763 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items 25,861 31,591 1,17,326 95,959 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 31,591 25,861 1,17,326 95,959 24,484 20,176 91,183 74,964 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items 24,104 20,192 90,803 75,006 Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] Paid up Equity Share Capital 43,138 39,476 43,138 39,476 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) 5,94,091 4,05,499 Securities Premium Account 2,31,077 1,33,700 2,31,077 1,33,700 4,44,969 6,37,223 6,37,223 4,44,969 Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt 16,32,242 13,95,962 16,32,242 13,95,962 **Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares** NA NA 2.56 2.56 3.14 3.14 Earnings Per Share (not annualised for quarter ended periods) 5.68 5.11 21.43 18.99 1. Basic: 20.85 18.35 2. Diluted: 4.89 Capital Redemption Reserve 531 531 16,910 16,910 Debenture Redemption Reserv Total Debts to Total Assets (%) 70.80% 70.80% 73.64% 73.64% 29.16% Net profit Margin (%) 29.33% 28.98% GNPA (%) 1.10% 1.08% 1.10% NNPA (%) 0.71% 0.65% 0.71% 0.65% 41.27% 34.46% 41.27% Provision Coverage Ratio (%) 34.46% 38.46% 44.61% 21 Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) (%) 44.61% 38.46%

The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and the Aadhar Housing Finance Limited www.aadharhousing.com

For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange BSE Limited and can be accessed on www.bseindia.com

Debt service coverage ratio, Interest service coverage ratio, Current ratio, Long term debt to working capital ratio, Bad debts to account receivable ratio, Current liability ratio, Debtors turnover, Inventory turnover and Operating margin (%) are not applicable.

d) Key standalone financial information: For the quarter For the year ended March ended March ended March ended March **PARTICULARS** No. 31, 2025 31, 2024 31, 2025 31, 2024 83,252 69,171 3,10,735 2,58,659 1 Total Revenue from Operations 1,17,381 Profit before tax & exceptional items 31,648 25,844 95,923 3 Profit before tax 31,648 25,844 1,17,381 95,923

4 Profit after tax 24,524 20,151 91,211 74,851 e) Previous period / year figures have been regrouped / re-classified wherever necessary in line with the financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2025.

> For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited**





Rishi Anand **Managing Director & CEO** DIN 02303503

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., CIN: L66010KA1990PLC011409, Registered Office: No. 3, JVT Towers, 8th 'A' Main Road, Sampangiramanagar, Near Hudson Circle, Bengaluru- 560 027 | Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069 | Tel. No.: 022 4168 9900 | Fax: 022 4168 9934 | Customer Care Toll Free: 1800 3004 2020 | E-mail: customercare@aadharhousing.com | Website: www.aadharhousing.com

the monsoon. epaper.freepressjournal.in

Place: Mumbai

Date : Date : May 06, 2025

to open this month

stretches from Princess Street

**Shefali Parab-Pandit** 

The ambitious Mumbai

Coastal Road Project (MCRP)

is nearing completion, with

one vehicular underpass

(VUP) and the remaining

three arms expected to open

to traffic this month. An inte-

grated command and control

centre (ICCC), located behind

Tata Garden in Breach Candy,

is also set to be ready within a

month, serving as the central

monitoring hub for the entire

The MCRP features multi-

level interchanges at Haji Ali,

Peddar Road (Amarsons

Garden), and Worli Sea Face,

with four arms at Peddar

Road, eight at Haji Ali, and six

at Worli. A senior civic official

said, "The final arm at Haji

Ali, linking Worli to Lotus

Jetty, will open in two days,

while two arms connecting

Prabhadevi and Dadar will

follow within 15 days. The

new VUP will ease south-

bound traffic from Worli and

Prabhadevi to Nariman Point

and provide a direct link from

the Sewri-Worli Connector,

between the western suburbs

The ICCC will manage the

entire coastal road through

connectivity

improving

and South Mumbai."

coastal road.

MUMBAI

10.58km project, costing ₹13,983cr,

Flyover to Bandra-Worli Sea Link

#### ₹**37.64L** aid to family of road mishap victim

Pranali Lotlikar

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), Thane, has awarded Rs37.64 lakh as compensation to the family of a 26-year-old man, who died in a road accident in 2019. The judgment was delivered by MACT Chairman and Principal District Judge SB Agrawal. The victim, Kunal Ganesh Godbole, a resident of Charai, Thane, lost his life on the night of March 24, 2019, after a container truck rammed into his scooter near the Khopat signal. He sustained fatal head injuries and died on the spot. The deceased was on his way to work at the time of the accident. His widow, mother, father, and minor sister had filed a claim petition under Section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, seeking compensation from the truck's owner and its insurer, Allianz General Insurance Company. The Tribunal found that the accident occurred due to the rash and negligent driving of the truck driver. It rejected the insurer's defence that there was any breach of policy conditions, ruling both the owner and insurer jointly and severally liable to pay compensation. The court said Rs10 lakh each will be kept in fixed

rehabilitation with proper documents to prove their claim Hear slum dwellers facing eviction from nat'l park'

**DELAYED ACTION** | Court was hearing a petition filed by a

group of slum dwellers; group contended eligibility for

Urvi Mahajani

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed the state government to grant a hearing to certain slum dwellers residing inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) who have been served eviction

A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice MS Karnik was informed by the state that due process had been followed before issuing the notices and that eligible dwellers would be accommo-

The court was hearing a petition filed by a group of slum dwellers who contended they were eligible for rehabilitation and had documents to

In January, the HC had pulled up the state for delaying action against illegal encroachments within SGNP. It had directed a survey to identify eligible encroachers and immediate removal of those not covered by the 2011 cut-off date for rehabilitation.

Following this, the government issued eviction notices



and launched a removal drive. Advocate Ashok Saraogi, representing the petitioners, argued that the dwellers had been residing in SGNP since before the cut-off date but

were served eviction notices

without a hearing. State advocate General Birendra Saraf said a survey had been conducted and assured the court that eligible dwellers would be rehabili-

"They (dwellers) want one more chance. Hear them. We will ask them to appear on a particular date when they will

show their documents," the bench told Saraf, directing the State to decide their eligibility as per law.

The HC asked the petitioners to appear before the appropriate authority on May 14 with relevant documents, and said it would pass a reasoned order thereafter.

Despite a 2003 judgment mandating relocation of slum dwellers whose names were on electoral rolls as of 1995, the state had unilaterally extended the cut-off to 2011.

In October 2024, the state told the court it would rehabili-

**IN BRIEF** 

against illegal

**SGNP** 

**✓ In January, HC** 

pulled up the state

for delaying action

encroachments within

It directed a survey

encroachers and

immediate removal of

those not covered by

the 2011 cut-off date

Following this, the

tate eligible slum dwellers on

90 acres of land carved out of

190 acres at Marol-Maroshi in

the western suburbs. The

move was opposed by the

Conservation Action Trust,

NGO Vanashakti, and activist

Zoru Bathena, who pointed

**Veviction** notices

and launched a

removal drive

government issued

for rehabilitation

to identify eligible

**April 16** 

**'DIGITAL** 

**RAKSHAK'** 

initiative

#### operandi

Scammers impersonate officials

Claiming their names are linked to cases documents

create fear, and

#### Recent

A senior citizen from Chembur received a threatening video call, and the fraudster put him under 'digital arrest'. However, his daughter helped him

Contact

#### out that the plot falls within 7715004444 or Aarey Colony, a Notified Forest 7400086666 and eco-sensitive zone where no development is permitted. **TEXT: Poonam Apraj**

### Panel submits report in illegal hoarding tragedy case

Prajakta Pol MUMBAI

The high-level inquiry committee, headed by former Chief Justice Dilip Bhosale, on Wednesday submitted its report to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis regarding the illegal giant hoarding collapse in Ghatkopar on May 24, 2024. Along with its investigation findings, the commit-

tee has also suggested key measures to the government concerning the regulation of such oversized hoardings. The illegal hoarding collapsed in the Cheddanagar area and claimed the lives of 16 innocent people.

The incident raised serious questions about the legality and safety of advertising hoardings across the city. In response, the state govern-

ment formed an inquiry committee on June 10, 2024. The committee was initially given one month to submit its findings, with the final deadline extended to March 31, 2025.

The committee included the additional commissioner of BMC, an officer of the rank of additional director general of police, a structural engineer from IIT Bombay experienced in evaluating external structural safety, an income tax officer with expertise in investigating financial irregularities and tax evasion, and a chartered accountant skilled in forensic audits.

The committee was tasked with examining the sequence of events, causes, and consequences of the hoarding collapse. It was also directed to make recommendations on policies regarding the installation of hoardings on land owned by police and railway authorities to prevent such incidents in the future. The panel investigated how rules and conditions were violated while granting permission for the hoarding in Ghatkopar. The government

is expected to disclose the committee's key recommendations soon.

#### Coastal Rd vehicular **SAVES 5 FROM** underpass, 3 arms **CYBER SCAMS**

Mumbai police launched 'Digital Rakshak' helpline on

**5** Citizens protected so far through this

#### Modus

from CBI, ED, Customs, or police, and contact victims

involving drugs, illegal transactions, or forged

They send fake notices via WhatsApp, follow up with video calls to demand money

#### incident

contact the helpline

### WhatsApp or call:



Control and command centre

real-time data from CCTV cameras, traffic sensors, and weather stations. It will also monitor air quality and tunnel ventilation, and maintain operations during power outages through battery backup and generators. As part of the advanced traffic management system (ATMS), it will use information and communication technology to streamline traffic flow.

"Currently in its final phase, the ICCC building will house a video wall for live surveillance, an emergency room, server room, and essential facilities. It includes two basement levels - one for fire and water tanks, and another for transformers, control panels, battery backup, diesel generators, and BEST equipment.

#### **Puppy thrown** off society building, dies

deposits of the members.

**Raina Assainar NAVI MUMBAI** 

Panvel police have registered a case against an unidentified person for allegedly throwing a 6 to 7-month-old stray puppy from a building in the Marathon Nexzone residential complex at Palaspe, Panvel, leading to the puppy's death. The incident took place on Sunday evening and has sparked outrage among animal lovers and residents.

According to the police, the puppy had been living on the premises of the upscale society along with other stray dogs and was often seen playing with children. Around 5.15pm on Sunday, an unidentified person reportedly threw the puppy from a considerable height within the society's premises. The puppy landed on the metal roofing of the generator room, causing a loud noise that alerted the security guards. On inspection, the guards found the puppy dead. "The complex consists of 31-storey towers with tight security and restricted access," said an official.

"We are checking the CCTV footage to ascertain who would have done that,' the officer added.

The Bhiwandi City Police on

Tuesday arrested three

including two women – for

valid visas and passports. The

accused are Babli Daulat

Shaikh, 40, and Rehana

Rajjak Shaikh, 25, both resi-

dents of the Hanuman Tekdi,

and Mohammad Ismail

Husain alias Ismail Ansari,

45, a resident of the

Bagalapura. During the

investigation, it was found

that they had entered India

without valid documents,

including a visa and passport.

"They admitted to fleeing

Bangladesh due to poverty

and unemployment," said an

official. Notably, a special

drive is underway in Thane

district to identify and appre-

hend Bangladeshi nationals

who have been living illegally

in areas including Bhiwandi,

Thane, Ulhasnagar, and

Kalyan. Police confirmed that

the operation is ongoing, and

efforts are being made to

locate, arrest, and present

such individuals in court.

Bangladeshi nationals

**NK Gupta** 

dreaming big!

Visitors clicked photographs dressed as astronauts at Nehru Science Centre recently, on the occasion of National Astronaut Day - Salman Ansari

#### Ticket counter for Panvel

**FPJ News Service** 

NAVI MUMBAI

As part of the ongoing expansion of Panvel railway station, major structural changes are underway, including the relocation of the local ticket counter. The old two-storey ticket counter building is set to be demolished to facilitate the station's redevelopment, including the extension of the Harbour line up to Karjat and the development of a dedicated freight corridor. A new building has been constructed at the entrance of the station by the Central Railway. The first floor of the building is also expected to open soon, said an official.

### Somendra Sharma

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has sent proposals in at least eight corruption-related cases to the state government seeking permission to confiscate assets worth Rs9.04 crore of the accused public servants. The ACB statistics revealed that the maximum number of cases are from the Mumbai region (3), followed by Pune (2) and one case each

### ACB seeks govt nod to freeze ₹9cr assets of public servants

from Nashik, Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar

The maximum number of

#### CORRUPTION **CASES**

cases are related to the officials urban development department (4), followed by one case each related to the officials of the transport, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries department, water resources department and public works department.

The highest amount of assets involved are related to the officials of the urban development department (Rs3.13 crore), followed by water resources department

(Rs2.82 crore), public works department (Rs2.48 crore), department transport (Rs47.69 lakh) and agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries department (Rs12.77 lakh).

Last month, FPJ reported that most ACB trap cases are related to the officials of the revenue and land records department, followed by the police, panchayat samiti and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. Between January and April 23, this year, 243 corruption-related cases were registered in the state, including 238 trap cases.

#### Citizens' groups welcome SC's order on municipal elections Illegal stay: 3 **Bangladeshis** held in Thane

**Manoj Ramakrishnan** 

Much delayed, but a welcome development: this is how citizens have reacted to the Supreme Court's interim order on Tuesday, asking residing in Bhiwandi without Maharashtra to hold local body elections and notify the Citizens Welfare Forum. process in four weeks.

> The BMC, the state's largest local body, has been functioning without elected corporators since February 2022. Shishir Vivekanand Shetty, founder of Lokhandwala Association, Residents Kandivali East, said that the SC's order to conduct municipal elections was welcome because bureaucrats are managing the BMC in corporators' absence.

"This is a huge disadvantage to residents who did not have their elected municipal councilor to represent their routine issues with their wards. Such a scenario is not good for a democratic setup," said Shetty.

Citizens said that the BMC, reportedly Asia's richest municipal body, has been

electoral democracy. "This absence of democratic governance had weakened grassroots accountability and deprived citizens of their constitutional right to local selfgovernance under Article 243U," said Shaikh Faiyaz Alam, convenor, Govandi

Citizens' groups said that without elected representatives, there was no accountability in civic governance.

"At least we can hold somebody responsible for the message in the city," said Subhash Motwani, president of the Clean Heritage Colaba Residents Association. "It is a welcome order because the whole BMC and the city are in disarray. There is corruption and encroachment of public places: Colaba is in a total mess. There will be some accountability if there are corporators. Though I wish the order had come early," said

Sanjeev D'Souza, coordinator for Action for Good Governance and Networking (AGNI), a citizens' group, agreed that the directions to functioning without elected hold the elections should have representatives, undermining come earlier. "We are excited

BMC, the state's largest local body, is functioning without elected corporators since February 2022

about the order. There is a void right now without corporators. We would rather have corporators on the job. It is something that is needed," said D'Souza, who represents H(West), which includes the western parts of Bandra, Santacruz, and Khar.

Shaikh said that the judgment is not just a legal mandate. It is a beacon of constitutional morality, restoring faith in the democratic framework. "This is a victory for the Constitution, for the people, and participatory governance," said Shaikh, who appealed to the State Election Commission to act swiftly and announce the election schedule in compliance with the SC's order, ensuring free, fair, and timely civic elections.

Indrani Malkani, a Malabar Hill resident and the chairperson of V Citizens Action Network (VCAN), said that the re Nevember a Shetty added.

delay in civic elections had nothing to do with the state government. "The issue had been pending for the longest period. People blamed the government, but the government itself had nothing to do with the delay. The matter was pending in the SC," said Malkani, who added that there is scepticism whether the election process will start soon. "This is a long process; I do not see it happening in a few months," said Malkani.

Shetty agreed that the timeline for the elections to be conducted within four months will have its challenges due to weather conditions in many cities, which have heavy rainfall in August and September. "It is always a challenge to have an average voter turnout; the monsoon will be a deterrent to the civic elections," said Shetty, who expected legal issues to delay the order's implementation.

option for the State Election Commission (SEC) to approach the bench to seek an extension in appropriate cases which I feel the SEC will to seek time till October or

"The court has kept an

#### **HC** upholds stay on movie release

Urvi Mahajani

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday upheld a stay on the release of the film Shaadi Ke Director Karan Aur Johar, ruling that its title infringes upon filmmaker Karan Johar's personality and pub-

licity rights. A bench comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice MS Karnik dismissed an appeal by the film's maker, Sanjay Singh, against a March order by Justice Riyaz Chagla that had halted the movie's release following a plea by

The court observed that Johar enjoys 'immense goodwill and reputation' in both Indian and international entertainment industries. "The name 'Karan Johar' is solely associated with the respondent (Karan Johar) and forms a germane part of his personality and brand name," it said.

The court noted, "Since Karan Johar's name has become his brand name, the director has the economic right to commercially exploit the same as per his discre-

### Petition filed in HC seeks preservation of Savarkar Sadan

Urvi Mahajani

ment.

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Bombay High Court seeking the preservation of Savarkar Sadan, the historic residence Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, amid concerns that the iconic structure may be demolished for redevelop-

The PIL was mentioned on Wednesday before a bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice MS Karnik, who asked the petitioner to apply for urgent hearing. The plea follows media reports highlighting the potential demolition of the building, located in Dadar's Shivaji Park. Originally constructed in 1938 as a two-storey bungalow, Savarkar Sadan holds historical significance as the residence of Savarkar and the venue of several important meetings, including ones with Subhas Chandra Bose in 1940 and Nathuram Godse in 1948,

assassination. Over the decades, addi-

prior to Mahatma Gandhi's

tional floors were added under the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) policy, resulting in a fivestorey structure. Today, the building is jointly owned by multiple parties. While some residents have agreed to the redevelopment and even sold their apartments to a developer, others, including Savarkar followers, have raised strong objections. They have sought heritage status and recognition of the building as a monument of national importance. This is not the first legal

attempt to preserve the building. A similar PIL was filed in 2008, following which the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee recommended "Grade II A" heritage status in January 2009. However, the proposal has been pending with the state urban development department since 2011. No modification is allowed to the exteriors of structures categorised as Grade II A, while internal changes and adaptive re-use are allowed subject to strict scrutiny.

THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL | Mumbai, Thursday, May 8, 2025

\*\*WWW.freepressjournal.in\*\*

# ANIL BORATE BRINGS NATURE ALIVE ON CANVAS

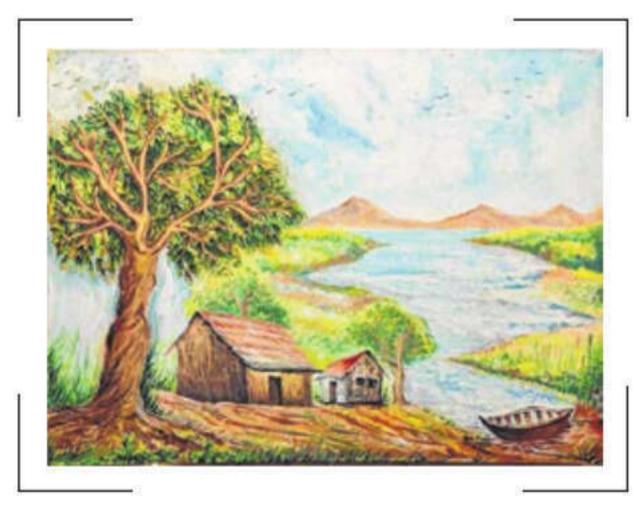
Through a stunning collection of paintings, Anil Borate captures the quiet elegance and understated beauty of nature, a theme he has explored passionately throughout his long and impactful career. Viewers will find themselves immersed in vivid scenes of sunflowers in bloom, sweeping seascapes, glowing sunsets, early sunrises, and various other moments where nature's calm meets colour. Borate's artworks serve as more than just visual treats; they're an invitation to pause, observe, and reconnect with the world around us.

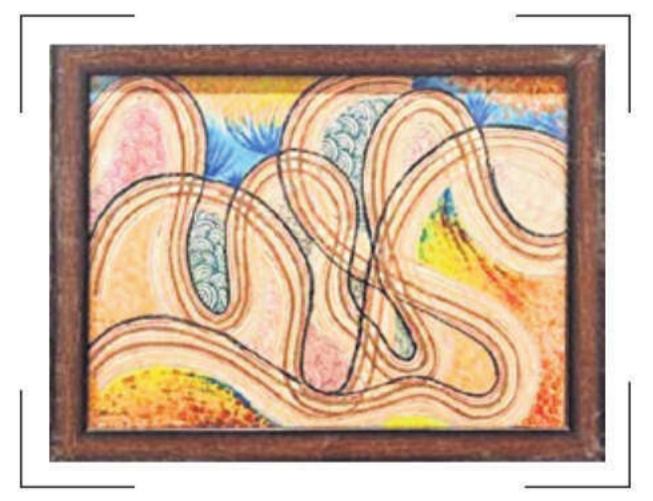














Free Press House, Free Press Journal Marg, 215, Nariman Point, Mumbai

WHEN:: On till May 15, 2025

WHERE: Gallery FPH, Free Press House, Nariman Point, Mumbai

### Briefs

**KOLHAPUR** 

#### Jaysingpur gets museum

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, accompanied by a museum and library, in Jaysingpur. The Rs7 crore project, built on statedonated land, aims to inspire youth. Shinde announced a Rs250 crore package for civic infrastructure, including a stadium and water supply scheme. Jaysingpur MLA Rajendra Patil-Yadravkar was felicitated for spearheading the long-pending project. Guardian Minister Prakash Abitkar and other officials attended the event.

#### PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD

#### Singh thanks CM, Dy CMs

Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Commissioner & Administrator Shekhar Singh on Friday thanked Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CMs Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde after the civic body was ranked second in the state in the Municipal



Corporation category under the final assessment of the Chief Minister's 100 Days Action Plan. Scoring 85.71 out of 100, PCMC stood just behind Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation, which secured the top spot with 86.29 points. PCMC's performance was distinguished by innovations such as an accessible, real-time website, Alpowered grievance redressal, GIS-based property tax reforms, smart sanitation facilities, and predictive analytics to improve civic service response times.

#### PUNE

#### Netizens slam youth's reel

A young student stopped a PMPML bus just to create an Instagram Reel. The video of this has gone viral on social media. Netizens have demanded punishment for the student. "If anyone is caught creating a Reel on the roads, they should be punished strictly. Such acts disrupt public order," said a user. "The Instagram account of this student should be deleted and he should be punished for this act," said another user.

**MUNICIPAL APATHY** | Residents allege eateries encroaching on free space

### Encroachments, neglect plague iconic Saras Baug

**Indu Bhagat** 

PUNE

Encroachments, lack of maintenance and poor sanitation at Saras Baug—one of Pune's historical prominent gardens-have raised concerns among residents, highlighting the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) apathy towards preserving tourist landmarks.

Saras Baug, built by Nanasaheb Peshwa and located at the foothills of Parvati, is a major attraction in the heart of the city. However, residents allege that its deteriorating condition is both an eyesore and a safety hazard. The main entrance is in poor shape, with the approach road heavily encroached by food stalls, forcing visitors to navigate narrow and unhygienic lanes.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Srikanth Kakade, a 63-year-old resident who visits the garden daily for morning walks, said, "The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road. This not only creates a foul stench but also endangers vehicles due to the narrowed road. People even park their freely. Authorities must take Social activist Sarang rampant across Pune. In encroachments."



two-wheelers in the remaining space, making the situation worse. I go for a walk to breathe fresh air, but all I get is a dirty, stinking smell."

Echoing similar sentiments, Shirish Shinde, a resident of Guruwar Peth who visits Saras Baug daily to offer prayers to the Sarasbaug Ganpati, shared his distress with the FPJ.

"That place is holy, and still there's so much filth. The dog population in the garden has increased. They scare and even bite visitors. The entire road is encroached upon by shop owners, and there's no space for people to walk



"The eateries and food stalls have encroached on the footpath and even expanded beyond it to place their tables and chairs. There's no proper drainage. At night, when they wash their stalls, dirty water flows directly onto the road."

— Srikanth Kakade, morning walker

strict action. What impression are we giving tourists? It should be clean and tidy so one can experience nature Saras Baug. "Encroachment and its beauty," Shinde said. is not limited to this area—it's

Yadhvadhkar highlighted that the issue of encroached footpaths extends beyond

"The entire road is

shop owners, and

freely. Authorities

— Shirish Shinde,

must take strict

action."

resident

people to walk

encroached upon by

there's no space for

occurs-PMC, L&T, Pune

PMC official, who didn't want to be named, said, "Action is underway. We are removing the pipes from the footpath and also taking action regularly regarding footpath



Kalyani Nagar, footpaths have been blocked for over a month. Water supply pipes belonging to L&T, the contractor for the 24x7 water supply scheme, have been lying on the footpath for months. I filed a complaint with the PMC," Yadhvadhkar told the FPJ, asking, "Who is responsible if a mishap

Police or citizens?" Responding to the FPJ, a



**Gaurav Kadam** 

PUNE

Kunal Tilak, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Maharashtra spokesperson and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Maharashtra vice-president, is all set to contest the forthcoming Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) elections.

Tilak was eager to contest the 2024 state polls from the Kasba Peth Assembly constituency. However, the saffron party chose to give the ticket to Hemant Rasane instead. With the next Assembly polls five years away, speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Tilak said he chose to contest the PMC polls.

"I wanted to contest the Assembly polls, but I didn't get the ticket. The next election is five years away, so I've decided to contest the PMC polls instead. I need to start somewhere, right? I must earn the mandate of the people and then prove my performance to my party," Tilak said.

When whether contesting the corporation polls would be perceived as a step down, he said, "No," EXCLUSIVE not at all. I don't think

it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career. If you look at the BJP's structure, there's a natural progression—a corporator becomes an MLA, an MLA becomes an MP, and so on. Only a few lucky ones get to become MLAs or MPs directly."

Asked about the key issues he plans to highlight to voters in the lead-up to the polls, Tilak said he presents a different type of politics—the politics of development. "I am young, educated and honest. I come from a family that has maintained its integrity. I have already been speaking on



"I don't think it's a step down for me. Instead, I consider it a stepping stone in my political career."

— Kunal Tilak, Spokesperson, Maharashtra

developmental works, traffic, roads and restoration of old properties in my constituency and will continue to do so. Besides, by being accessible, I will continue to gain the confidence of the people," he concluded.

With the Supreme Court directing the Maharashtra government to hold municipal elections within four months, political activity has picked up in Pune.

According to PMC officials, if the elections are held based on the existing population data and previous ward structure, the city will have 44 wards with four corporators per ward, taking the total to 166 corporators.

Until 2022, PMC had 162 corporators—a number likely to rise due to the inclusion of 34 merged villages.

### Sinhagad Road woes continue

**Ankit Shukla/Indu** 

**Bhagat** 

The traffic woes of Sinhagad Road residents are not seeming to end anytime soon. A week after the road saw a 6km traffic jam which led to delays of at least four hours, the road is seeing a logjam from Dhayari Phata to Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk every day, which has frustrated commuters, with signals being shut and just one traffic personnel on the spot in the scorching heat on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Rupali Chakankar, who resides in Dhayari, along with Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Mahesh Pokale and several other local politicians, met Police Additional Commissioner Manoj Patil, Aniruddha Pawaskar from the Road Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) at the Sinhagad Road to review the traffic situation and discuss a remedial plan.

**Speed breaker removed** On Tuesday night, a speed breaker near Funtime Theatre on Sinhagad Road



by the PMC. Additionally, the PMC initiated the work at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk to manage and improve traffic flow on Sinhagad Road, which included removing vehicles from the traffic post, reclaiming the occupied space and removing the cycle track, informed a PMC official.

"The traffic police chowky situated below the Wadgaon bridge will be removed soon. We are also planning to provide a substitute route for commuters on that stretch to help ease congestion," Patil told The Free Press Journal

Road on Saturday to assess the ongoing traffic issues. He had given instructions to increase the signal timing at the road leading to Dhayari junction at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk and to remove roadside encroachments near the Wadgaon Bridge. He also directed officials to shut down illegal parking spots. Four to five key bottlenecks were identified during the visit. The PMC acted on these suggestions on

Tuesday and Wednesday. "The bridge has no faults, it's actually reducing the time. Earlier, it would take 20 minutes from Vithalwadi to Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes." Pokale told the FPJ.

Vithalwadi to Funtime theatre, but now it takes only three minutes," Pokale told the FPJ. "But the main traffic issue now is occurring at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk as it is encroached by the fruit and vegetable sellers and autorickshaws, due to which that area has become a bottleneck. The authorities visited the site on May 3, and now they are removing the cycle track to widen the road by a few inches. We have suggested changing the signal timings to reduce traffic," he added.

### Netizens slam PMPML driver

**Staff Reporter** 

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) bus drivers have been accused of violating traffic rules.

In one such incident, a PMPML driver was caught driving while on the phone. A Reddit user shared the picture, which drew outrage on social media, with many slamming it as "typical Punekar" behaviour.

"Oh, this is so dangerously common here. I've been in such cabs where one scrolled reels all the way. One scrolled Facebook and then switched to Instagram Reels and then put on a movie. One just kept watching YouTube Shorts," a user commented.

"There's a new low of stupidity seen nowadays in Pune. Cab drivers, auto drivers are watching reels on phones while at stoplights or even in slow-moving traffic," another user shared.

A third user stated that in Bengaluru, drivers are instructed to either deposit their phones in lockers at their respective depots or switch them off before getting behind the wheel.

#### PMPML rolls out pilot project to monitor bus health

**Ankit Shukla** 

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) has decided to fit "On Board Devices" in its buses to curb sudden breakdowns on the roads.

Speaking to The Free Press Journal (FPJ), Nitin Narvekar, the Managing Director of PMPML, said, "The cases of breakdown increase, especially in the summer season, due to heat. Soon, a health monitoring system known as the 'On Board Device' will be set up in all PMPML buses. This device will alert bus drivers by indicating a signal (mini light blinking). The device's functional system will be connected directly to the control

room. As the driver informs about the blinking light, that particular bus will be checked technically and mechanically. With the help of this device, it is easier to detect faults in the buses, including coolant shortages, engine overheating and other technical glitches."

"In the initial stage, we have installed this in four buses. Its analysis will be done, and once the results are positive, it will soon be fitted in all the buses. This will be very helpful—knowing upcoming faults will help maintain the buses, and there will be very few chances of a breakdown on the road. Earlier, there were no devices installed, and the driver was unaware of the glitches," he added.

#### Drunk man bludgeons male friend to death

**Ankit Shukla** 

**PUNE** 

Pune Police have arrested a 40-year-old man for murdering his male friend for rejecting his sexual advances, officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place on May 5 near Maldhakka Chowk, they added.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Bheem Gaikwad (40), a resident of Latur district, while the deceased is Kishor Kamble (35), a native of Satara.

"Kamble was found dead at the roadside near Maldhakka

Chowk on May 5. In the medical report, it was found that Kamble was assaulted with a heavy stone on his head and died due to severe blood loss. Later, police detained Gaikwad after watching the CCTV footage. He was arrested within the Samarth Police Station jurisdiction," the police said.

Inspector Umesh Gitte said, "At the time of the incident, they both were drunk. Over the demand for sexual favours, an argument occurred between them, which later became the cause of Kamble's **Indu Bhagat** 

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), in a bid to promote sustainable waste management, has decided to explore options to procure electric cycles for garbage collection.

The city generates more

than 2,100 tonnes of solid waste daily, which is collected and transported to solid waste processing plants located in different parts of the city. The PMC motor vehicle department spends around Rs113 crore per year on vehicle maintenance, including fuel, repairs,

maintenance and staff salaries.

The city's 4,000 waste pickers—most of whom are women—collect garbage daily. These workers provide door-to-door waste collection services to over 40 lakh residents, covering nearly 68% of the city's garbage collection.

Remarkably, Pune's plastic recycling rate stands at 37%—over three times the national average—largely thanks to the efforts of these waste pickers.

Traditionally, sanitary workers have used pushcarts for door-to-door collection, helping the civic



sustainable waste management

PMC begins e-cycle trial for sanitary workers

rates compared to mechanbody implement decentralised systems, and creates ised waste management. This system enhances waste four times more employsegregation, triples recycling ment. However, the work is

physically demanding, causing significant fatigue and strain for the waste pickers.

To ease this burden, a group of committed waste workers known as the Hardworking Panchayat has partnered with Tata Motors and Social Alpha to electrify 150 pushcarts. Delhi-based startup Accelero Vehicles has developed special electric kits that can be fitted onto existing carts, designed with input from waste pickers to meet their specific

needs. This initiative, part of Tata Motors' CSR and Affirmative Action efforts, aims to improve the working conditions and dignity of waste pickers in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Initially, 150 e-carts (5% of the 3,000 total carts in use) will be deployed for a threemonth trial period. The results will be evaluated jointly by waste pickers and the PMC. If successful, the model could be expanded to benefit sanitation workers and waste handlers across India.

Additionally, specialised training programmes are planned to support waste pickers, including skills for horticultural work, broadening their livelihood opportunities.

epaper.freepressjournal.in

### marathwada

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Thursday, May 8, 2025



#### **Essay** competition

Various events were organised to mark the Jain Heritage Day, Maharashtra Day and International Labour Day in PU Jain School recently. The winners of the essay competition organised to mark the occasion were awarded prizes. The Jain Education Society felicitated the meritorious students on the occasion. The flag hoisting was done by the chief guest, Sunil Patni. Dignitaries Sunil Setty, Nilesh Kala and others were present.

#### CSN

#### **Blood** donation

Dr Hedgewar Hospital and Bharat Vikas Parishad organised a blood donation camp at Sudhakarnagar on Monday to mark the International Labour Day. More than 40 people donated blood. Speaking on the occasion, president Anil Soni and Ram Malani stated the importance of blood donation.

#### CSN

#### Water evaporates

Around 1.951 TMC water has been evaporating daily from the Jayakwadi Dam in Paithan, said Executive Engineer Prashant Jadhav. Presently, the water storage in the dam is 37.39%, and water is evaporating in large quantities daily. Around 184 TMC water has been reserved for Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar city, Jadhav said.

**DEADLOCK ENDS** | Aspirants happy and vying for local poll tickets

# CSMC may likely go to polls around Diwali

**Manish Gajbhiye** 

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

The Supreme Court on Tuesday, May 6, directed state election authorities to conduct long-pending local body elections within four months, ending a five-year deadlock caused by OBC reservation disputes. The ruling paves the for Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation (CSMC) elections, likely before Diwali, with the poll process expected to commence within two weeks of the Election Commission receiving the court order.

CSMC's



term expired in 2020, with administrative functions handled successively by municipal commissioners 115-corporator Astik Kumar Pandey, Abhijeet

Chaudhary and current administrator G Sreekanth. Despite a 2022 government order increasing corporators to 126 across 42 prabhags

(electoral wards), reservation delimitation remained stalled.

Apart from the municipal corporation, the verdict also revives elections in six municicouncils—Kannad, Paithan, Vaijapur, Khuldabad, Gangapur, Sillod—and Phulambri Nagar Panchayat, all currently run by adminis-

Political aspirants across Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar welcomed the decision, as many of them have been vying for a ticket in the polls.

The Maharashtra State Election Commission will now determine reservation matrices before issuing formal notifications.

#### **Manish Gajbhiye** CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR Unseasonal rainfall, along

Unseasonal rain lashes

district for second day

with strong winds and hailstorms, lashed the entire district for two consecutive days on Monday and Tuesday. The meteorological experts have opined that the cloudy conditions will prevail for the next two days. Meanwhile, the residents have been relieved from the scorching heat as the temperature has gone down. However, the standing crops on the farms have been damaged due to heavy rains.

The unseasonal rainfall started in the district from Monday afternoon. The rural areas in the district received rain on Tuesday as well. Hailstorms were experienced at some places. The maximum temperature recorded on Tuesday was 36.5°C and the minimum was 23.1°C. The meteorological department



has issued an alert regarding unseasonal rain till May 8 in the district.

Rain with hailstorms and strong winds has been experienced in the Waluj Mahanagar area on Monday and Tuesday. The residents were in chaos due to the sudden rainfall. Some people enjoyed the rain while the farmers incurred heavy crop losses. The farmers incurred

losses as the standing crops of bajra, onion, vegetables, tomato, chilly, and others were damaged in the rain. Waluj MIDC, Teesgaon, Pandharpur, Waluj, Naigaon, Bajajnagar, Ranjangaon, Jogeshwari and other places were affected by the rain.

Due to the rain the there was very little traffic on the roads, with two-wheeler riders seeking shelters.

# 'Demystifying Healthcare AI' conference at MIT on Sunday

**Manish Gajbhiye** 

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

Growth Catalysts, in collaboration with MIT Hospital, and partnership with Marathwada Accelerator for Growth & Incubation Council (MAGIC), is organising a national conference "Demystifying titled Healthcare AI" on Sunday at Arya/Anand Hall, MIT Institute, Beed Bypass.

This conference will feature discussions on key themes such as enhancing diagnostic accuracy with AI, personalised patient care, improving operational efficiency in hospitals, and the future of AI in healthcare, along with its ethical considerations.

Distinguished speakers, including Dr Avinash Supe, Professor Emeritus, KEM Hospital; Dr Anant Pandhare, president, AIIMS Nagpur; Dr Amit Kharat, cofounder, DeepTek.AI; Dr Ajit Bhagwat, director of cardiology, Kamalnayan Bajaj Hospital; Prof Renu John, professor, Biomedical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad; and Dr Matthias Zobel, CEO, Gregor Matenaer, co-CAIMAZO, founder, Germany, will share their insights and engage in discussions on the future of AI in healthcare.

Speaking about the conference, Medha Deshpande, the founder and CEO of Growth Catalysts, stated,

"Data is fundamental to AI in healthcare. Doctors, researchers, and technology developers in the medical field must come together to develop actionable and effective AI systems.

The geographical structure, population density, resource constraints, and disease patterns in India are completely different from Western countries. Therefore, it is crucial to create distinct, localised algorithms tailored to the healthcare needs of India."

"Such localised algorithms will enable AI to make more accurate decisions and ensure that healthcare services reach both urban and rural patients efficiently," Deshpande adapaper.freepresajournal.in

#### 15K opt for PM Suryaghar

**Manish Gajbhiye** 

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

The Union Government has

launched the Prime Minister Suryaghar scheme to provide free electricity to consumers using less than 300 units of electricity in a month. Under the scheme, the consumers establish a solar system on the roofs of their houses to generate electricity. In all, 15,000 consumers have taken the benefit of the scheme in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar circle, and the solar set of 53.4mw capacity has been installed on the roofs of their houses. The domestic users who have installed the solar set can use around 120 to 360 units of electricity absolutely free. The consumers are provided loans from various

### Young farmer dies due to lightning

**Manish Gajbhiye** 

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

A young farmer died due to lightning at Sisarkheda-Udangaon, Ghatnanadra in Sillod taluka on Tuesday evening. The deceased farmer has been identified as Sunil Govind Chirkhe (25). The entire district has been affected due to unseasonal rainfall since Monday. On Tuesday, Sunil was working on his farm when it started raining with strong winds. Suddenly, lightning fell on him and he succumbed to the

The Sillod district received heavy rain with a hailstorm on Tuesday afternoon. The areas



of Bharadi, Abhay Pimpaldari, Balapur, Golegaon, Kalgaon, Ajanta, Shivna, Sillod, Palshi, and Nillod received heavy rainfall. The power supply was interrupted at most places. The Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MSEDCL) employees were working till late at night to restore the power supply.

### Police ganja row

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

An employee of the police department has been suspended for allegedly smoking ganja while on duty at the superintendent of police's (SP) residence in Beed district, an official said on Tuesday.

Beed SP Navneet Kanwat's official residence is under maintenance, the official from Beed police said.Balu Bahirwad, a staffer with the police department, was deployed at the SP's bungalow. When Kanwat reached the premises for inspection on Sunday, he found Bahirwad smoking ganja on duty and suspended him, the official said.



#### Dist fencer in Khelo India

Mithali Sachin Pardeshi from the Nashik District Fencing Association has been selected for the 'Khelo India Youth Games 2025' national tournament to be held in Patna from May 11 to 15. Pardeshi will participate in the "EP" fencing category. She has been practising for the last five years under the guidance of coach Prasad Pardeshi and Chhatrapati Award winner Raju Shinde. She had previously performed well in state and national level competitions and won medals.

#### **NASHIK**

#### Free health checkup camp

The KK Wagh Educational Institution, KK Wagh Foundation, Balasaheb Wagh Welfare Foundation and Smile and Spinach Foundation jointly organised a free heart, eye and women's health checkup camp in the memory of the late Balasaheb (Bhau) Wagh on Sunday, May 4, at Karmaveer Raosaheb Thorat Secondary and Higher Secondary School. More than 350 villagers benefited from this free health checkup camp.

#### **NASHIK**

#### 100% result in science

All the students of the science branch of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Secondary and Higher Secondary School in Khedgaon have succeeded in the 12th standard examination. While the result of the commerce branch is 96% and the result of the arts branch is 91%. Tanuja Bhaskar More secured first place in the science stream with 74% marks, while Rohini Devchand Jogre (73%) in the arts stream and Rani Sanjay Shinde (69%) in the commerce stream came second and third, respectively.

SIMHASTHA KUMBH | Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority will be modelled after the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela Authority

### Maha cabinet approves law to establish Kumbh authority

#### AHILYANAGAR

The Maharashtra cabinet has approved a law to establish a Kumbh Mela Authority for planning the mega congregation scheduled to take place in Nashik in 2027, Chief Minister Fadnavis Devendra announced on Tuesday.

The Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority (KMA) will be modelled after the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela Authority, which was granted planning powers.

"In today's cabinet meeting, we approved a law to facilitate the establishment of the Kumbh Mela Authority for the event's planning," Fadnavis said after chairing the state



cabinet meeting at Chondi village in Ahilyanagar district.

The Simhastha Kumbh Mela, held after a 12-year interval, attracts lakhs of devotees.

According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), approximately 2.5 crore people attended the 2015 Simhastha Kumbh Mela. The number of attendees for the 2027 fair is expected to increase four to five times.

"A dedicated authority is essential for holistic planning and coordination," the statement said.

The Cabinet has approved an ordinance and granted approval for appointing officials to key posts to ensure efficient management, the statement added.

### Jalgaon suffers due to unseasonal rain

#### Vijay Pathak **JALGAON**

For the second consecutive day, unseasonal rain accompanied by hailstorms and gusty winds lashed Jalgaon city on Wednesday, severely disrupting daily life. The storm struck around 2pm, plunging the city into darkness and causing chaos for hawkers, vegetable sellers, and other street vendors. Several hoardings collapsed and power supply was disrupted in many areas.

On Tuesday, the city had already faced similar weather, with stormy winds and hail damaging power poles and leading to outages lasting over twelve hours. As a result, the Jalgaon Municipal Corporation announced a one-day delay in water supply. Traffic movement was affected by uprooted trees and bent electricity poles. District Collector Ayush Prasad conducted a late-night inspection of affected areas and issued immediate instructions to officials after observing waterlogging and other civic

Although there were no reports of human casualties, livestock losses were reported from Erandol taluka. Four goats were killed by lightning in Erandol Shivar. In Jalu village, a bull owned by Mr Dhansingh Abhiman Shinde



died due to a lightning strike. In Ekalgan village, a buffalo tied under a tree was killed on the spot. A tree fell on the hut of Vishnu Dhana Jogi in Ganeshnagar, Erandol, damaging both the structure and household belongings. According to the district administration, roof sheets of houses were blown away in several areas, including Nashirabad.

The unseasonal rain has also wreaked havoc on agriculture. Banana orchards across the district have suffered significant damage, resulting in major financial losses for farmers. Other crops, including jwari, maha and bajra, were also affected. In response, Guardian Minister Gulabrao Patil has directed the district administration to immediately carry out a panchnama (damage

**DEMAND** 

**NOTICE** 

#### **'Simhastha Kumbh Mela provides** all-round development opportunity'

#### **Prashant Nikale**

The Simhastha Kumbh Mela has provided an opportunity for the allaround development of Nashik. Through this, permanent facilities will be created for devotees in Nashik-

Trimbakeshwar, asserted **Divisional Commissioner** Praveen Gedam. He also appealed to the local citizens to come forward and cooperate with the administration to make the upcoming Kumbh Mela a success.

Gedam presented his views on the topic of 'Nashik-Trimbakesh-war Kumbh Mela 2027-28' in the Vasant Lecture Series organised at Godaghat on Sunday. On this occasion, Bhakti Charandas Maharaj, Municipal Commissioner Manisha Khatri, Additional

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 📣

सिंडिकेट Syndicate

**Gold Auction Sale Notice** 

SINNAR BRANCH (DP5607)

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan

accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been returned undelivered, to the Bank. They are

therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or

before 26/05/2025 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in E-auction at the cost of

the borrower at 12.30 Pm to 1.30Pm. On 28/05/2025 or on any other convenient date thereafter without

Seal of Bank

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA** 

MALVAN BRANCH (0072)

ਟੇਲੀ/Tel: 02365-252046/251141

ई-मेल∕E-mail: bom72@mahabank.co.in

At Post Somwar Peth, Malvan, Dist Sindhudurg

POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8(1)]

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra,

Ratnagiri Zone, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset

and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of

powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 11.02.2025 calling

upon Borrower/Mortgagor- Mrs. Sunita Pandurand Nichal, to repay amount

aggregating ₹ 24.99.596.00/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Nine

Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six) plus further applicable interest thereon

w.e.f. 11.02.2025 plus cost and expenses as mentioned in the demand notice

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given

to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken

Symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of

powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 06th

The Borrower and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra Malvan Branch for ₹ 24,99,596.00/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six) plus further applicable interest thereon w.e.f. 11.02.2025 plus cost and expenses. The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of

Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All that pieces and parcels of Flat No. 003, Wing 01, Admeasuring 416.41

Sq.Ft., Ground Floor In Building Named "Matric Homes" In Project Named

"Horizon Grande" Situated at S.No. 29 Hissa No. 5/24, S.No. 29 Hissa

No. 5/27 Village- Wairy, Taluka-Malvan, District- Sindhudurg, Mahashtra

416606 owned by Mrs. Sunita Pandurand Nichal (Borrower/ Mortgagor).

Together with the structures constructed to/to be constructed thereon and

within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Name of the Borrower

Najim Husen

Maniyar

further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank

Online Auction on : @https://egold@auctiontiger.net

Loan Number

180167012151

Date of Loan

03/04/2023

Date: 05/05/2025

Place: Nashik

Bank of Maharash

per extise "risare" spr., feether, pl., even

(Appendix IV)

assets.

**Bounded As Under:** 

Date- 06.05.2025

Place: Wairy, Taluka- Malvan.

On Or Towards North: Open Space

On Or Towards South: Passage and Staircase

all the fixtures, furniture annexed thereto.

On Or Towards East: Flat No. 002 Ground Floor

On Or Towards West: Flat No. 004 Ground Floor

po ultar parlie

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Aditya Mirkhelkar, Pranav Pawar, Satish Shukla, Devang Jani, and others were present.

Some mistakes were

made in the last Kumbh Mela. Due to which the devotees were inconvenienced. Considering this experience, efforts are being made to provide better facilities to the devotees this year. Gedam informed that permanent facilities will be created for the devotees in Nashik-Trimbakeshwar. He said that the plan of Trimbakeshwar is in the final stage. Gedam also

Kumbh Mela. Aditya Mirkhelkar said that the administration is accepting all challenges and preparing itself.

mentioned that the road

network in Nashik will be

strengthened further on

the occasion of the

Gross

Weight

08.10

Grams

**Authorised Officer, Canara Bank** 

Weight

5.00

Grams

#### The district administration has installed sirens at nine places in the city to alert residents in case

of war or emergency. Against this backdrop, a mock drill was organised at KTHM College on Wednesday to test the air raid warning system. As per the instructions of the

**Prashant Nikale** 

**NASHIK** 

district administration, sirens went on in the college premises at a fixed time in the afternoon. During this mock drill, a demonstration was given of

what precautions citizens and

the possibility of air strikes. Students, teachers and nonteaching staff of the college actively participated in this. As soon as they heard the sound of

Admin conducts mock wartime

drill on KTHM College campus

students should take in view of the siren, students were informed about how to take shelter in a safe place. An appeal was made to follow the instructions given by the administration.

no volm / Hairo (qa, Bedler, yi. erasi



#### **BANK OF MAHARASHTRA,**

**SAWANTWADI BRANCH** Patil Tower, Gavali Titha, Opp. ST Stand, Taluka- Sawantwadi, District-Sindhudurg-416510

#### ई-ਸੇਲ/ e-mail: bom71@mahabank.co.in POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8(1)]

(Appendix IV)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra Ratnagiri Zone, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec. 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 20.01.2025 calling upon Borrower/Mortgagor-Mr. Deepak Ramchandra Kasalkar & Guarantor Mr. Sunil Dattaram Vengurlekar to repay amount aggregating Rs. 28,90,879.00/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Ninety Thousand **Eight Hundred Seventy Nine)** plus further interest & other charges thereon from 20/01/2025 as mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, Notice is

hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 06th day of May 2025. The Borrower and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra Sawantwadi Branch for Rs. 28,90,879.00/-(Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Ninety Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine) plus further interest & other charges thereon from 20/01/2025. The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section

13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

All that piece and parcel of Flat No. 304 (404), situated on Second Floor, admeasuring 484.2 built-up area, in the building named "Shree Dwarkamai Complex" Situated at Survey No. 22, Hissa No. 7B/3, 7B/4, C.T.S No. 4311, At Charathe Municipal Area Sawantwadi, Taluka- Sawantwadi, District-Sindhudurg. **Boundaries**;

On the East: Road On the West: Hissa No. 7A/10 and 7B/9

Place: Sawantwadi

On the North Hissa No.1 On the South: Municipal Road

Together with the structures constructed to/to be constructed thereon and all the fixtures, furniture annexed thereto. Date- 06.05.2025

### and make "House" (50), Breiter, ye. engo.

मराठी मनाचा आवाज

**ब्ब** नव@शक्ति )

www.navshakti.co.in

#### **BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Goa Zonal Office** M. G. Road, Panaji- 403001

ਟੇਲੀ/Tel: 0832-2496210/ 2496200 ई-मेल/E-mail: dzmgoa@mahabank.co.in **NOTICE** 

### **DEMAND**

Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

The Authorised Officer of the Bank Of Maharashtra Kadaval branch has issued demand notice on 29/05/2024 in compliance of section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act , 2002 to the below mentioned Borrower/ Guarantor demanding outstanding amount within 60 days from the issue of the said notice mentioned as per details. However, notice issued to the Borrower is returned unrespondent. Hence this publication of the notice is made for notice to the following Borrower/ Guarantor. Name of the Borrower/legal Heirs/ Nature of Facility & Outstanding Details of Secured Immovable Asset

Sanctioned Limit	dues	betails of Secured Illimovable Asset
, .		All that pieces and parcel of the property admeasuring 0-08-5 Ha. Survey No.49, Hissa No. 69, situate at Village Nandos, within local limits of Gram Panchayat Nandos Tal- Malvan Dist- Sindhudrg. Bounded: On or towards East: Boundary of Hissa No 62 On or towards West: Road On or towards South: Boundary of Hissa No 67 On or towards North: Boundry of Hissa No 70 Together with the building and structures constructed to/to be constructed thereon and all the fixed plant, machinery and fixtures annexed
		thereto
	Sanctioned Limit Housing Loan Facility Rs. 2656000/-	Sanctioned Limit dues  Housing Loan Facility Rs. 2656000/- A/C No.60301831867  Gues Rs. 3567766.75/- + Further UCI & Other Charges from Date Of NPA

MS 416604 Borrower/ Guarantor is hereby informed that Authorised Officer of the Bank shall under provision of SARFAESI Act, take possession and subsequently auction the Secured Assets as mentioned above if the Borrower/ Guarantor do not pay the amount as mentioned above within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. The Borrower is also prohibited under Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act to transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets stated above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This public notice is to be treated as notice u/s 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 Borrower is advised to collect the original notice issued under Section 13 (2) from the undersigned on any working day by discharging

Place: Kadaval, Dist. Sindhudurg Date: 08/05/2025

katta, Tal. Malvan Dist. Sindhudurg

Authorized Officer, **Bank of Maharashtra** 

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Goa Zonal Office** M. G. Road, Panaji- 403001 ਟੇਲੀ/Tel: 0832-2496210/ 2496200 ई-ਸੇਲ/E-mail: dzmgoa@mahabank.co.in

The Authorised Officer of the Bank Of Maharashtra Kadaval branch has issued demand notice on 29/05/2024 in compliance of section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 to the below mentioned Borrower/ Co-Borrower demanding outstanding amount

assessment).

within 60 days from the issue of the said notice mentioned as per details. However, notice issued to the Borrower is returned unrespondent. Hence this publication of the notice is made for notice to the following Borrower/Co-Borrower. Name of the Borrower/legal Heirs/ Nature of Facility & Outstanding **Guarantor and address** Sanctioned Limit

ı	Qualantoi anu audiess	Sanctioned Limit	uues	Asset
l	1) late Prakash Gangaram Vadar	Loan Again Property	Rs. 1044224/-	All that pieces and parcel of the
l	(Borrower)	(MAHALAP) Of	+ Further	property admeasuring 0-08-5
l	Address: H No 53, Guramvadi, Post	Rs. 1000000/-	UCI & Other	Ha. Survey No.49, Hissa No. 69,
l	katta, Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg	A/C No. 60420575441	Charges from	situate at Village Nandos, within
l	MS 416604 Through legal Heirs		Date Of NPA	local limits of Gram Panchayat
l	2) Mrs. Vimal Prakash Vadar		29.10.2023.	Nandos Tal- Malvan Dist-
l	(Borrower)			Sindhudrg.
l	Address: H No 53, Guramvadi, Post			Bounded:
l	katta, Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg			On or towards East : Boundary of
l	MS 416604			Hissa No 62
l	3) Mr Sagar Prakash Vadar			On or towards West : Road
l	(Co-Borrower)			On or towards South : Boundary
l	Address: H No 53, Guramvadi, Post			of Hissa No 67
l	katta, Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg			On or towards North : Boundry of
l	MS 416604			Hissa No 70
l	4) Mr Amol Prakash vadar			Together with the building and
l	(Co-Borrower)			structures constructed to/to
l	Address: H No 53, Guramvadi, Post			be constructed thereon and all
	katta, Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg			the fixed plant, machinery and
	MS 416604			fixtures annexed thereto

Borrower/ Co-Borrower is hereby informed that Authorised Officer of the Bank shall under provision of SARFAESI Act, take possession and subsequently auction the Secured Assets as mentioned above if the Borrower/ Co-Borrower do not pay the amount as mentioned above within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. The Borrower is also prohibited under Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act to transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets stated above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This public notice is to be treated as notice u/s 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 Borrower is advised to collect the original notice issued under Section 13 (2) from the undersigned on any working day by discharging

Place: Kadaval, Dist. Sindhudurg Date: 08/05/2025

**Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra** 

#### बैक अग्रेफ महाराष्ट्र Sank of Maharashtra ow affect on do part welve "Vourer" toys, finalizer, of arrant.

#### **Bank of Maharashtra Goa Zonal Office** M. G. Road, Panaji- 403001

**NOTICE** 

The Authorised Officer of the Bank Of Maharashtra Kadaval branch has issued demand notice on 29/05/2024 n compliance of section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 to the below mentioned Borrower/Guarantor demanding outstanding amount within 60 days from the issue of the said notice mentioned as per details. However, notice issued to the Borrower is returned unrespondent. Hence this publication of the notice is made for notice to the following

Nature of Facility & Outstanding dues

Sanctioned Limit

1) late Prakash Gangaram	New Maha Topup	Rs. 482524/-+	All that pieces and parcel of the
Vadar (Borrower)	Loan Facility	Further UCI &	property admeasuring 0-08-5 Ha.
Address: H No 53, Guramvadi,	Rs. 490000/-	Other Charges	Survey No.49, Hissa No. 69, situate
Post katta, Tal_Malvan	A/C No.	from Date Of NPA	at Village Nandos, within local
Dist_Sindhudurg MS 416604	60402082720	29.10.2023.	limits of Gram Panchayat Nandos
Through legal Heirs			Tal- Malvan Dist- Sindhudrg.
2) Mrs. Vimal Prakash Vadar			Bounded:
(Borrower) Address: H No			On or towards East : Boundary of
53, Guramvadi, Post katta,			Hissa No 62
Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg			On or towards West : Road
MS 416604			On or towards South : Boundary of
3) Mr Amol Prakash Vadar			Hissa No 67
(Guarantor) Address: H No 53,			On or towards North : Boundry of
Guramvadi, Post katta,			Hissa No 70
Tal_Malvan Dist_Sindhudurg			Together with the building and
MS 416604			structures constructed to/to be
4) Mr Sagar Prakash vadar			constructed thereon and all the
Address: H No 53, Guramvadi,			fixed plant, machinery and fixtures
Post katta, Tal_Malvan Dist_			annexed thereto
6: 11 1 146 44 666 4			aee.

Borrower/Guarantor is hereby informed that Authorised Officer of the Bank shall under provision of SARFAESI Act, take possession and subsequently auction the Secured Assets as mentioned above if the Borrower/Guarantor do not pay the amount as mentioned above within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. The Borrower is also prohibited under Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act to transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets stated above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This public notice is to be treated as notice u/s 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 Borrower is advised to collect the original notice issued under Section 13 (2) from the undersigned

Place: Kadawal, Dist. Sindhudurg

Sindhudurg MS 416604

**Authorized Officer** 

**Authorized Officer, Bank of Maharashtra** 

Name of the Borrower/ legal

Heirs/Guarantor and address

ਟੇਲੀ/Tel: 0832-2496210/ 2496200 ई-ਸੇਲ/E-mail: dzmgoa@mahabank.co.in **DEMAND** 

**Details of Secured Immovable** 

Date: 08/05/2025 Bank of Maharashtra

## money

**US Fed holds** 

rates steady

**FPJ Business Desk** 

The US Federal Reserve on

Wednesday held its key inter-

est rate unchanged as it waits

for the Donald Trump admin-

istration's trade policy to take

shape and sees its impact on a

the

Open

between 4.25%-4.5%, where it

The post-meeting statement

noted the volatility and how it

is factoring into policy deci-

sions. "Uncertainty about the

increased further," the state-

ment said. "The Committee is

WASHINGTON / MUMBAI

sputtering economy.

sweeping the politi-

cal and economic

Market Committee

held its benchmark

overnight borrowing

rate in a range

has been since December.

economic outlook

landscape,

Federal

Given uncertainty

### Briefs

#### BSE, NSE curb overseas access to websites

Amid India launching missile attacks on Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE have taken precautionary measures by blocking their websites for international users, sources said. "BSE, being a critical market infrastructure institution (MII), proactively and continuously monitors risks at domestic and international levels for potential cyber threats," a BSE spokesperson said, explaining the rationale behind the deci-

#### SAT rejects Gensol plea to stay SEBI order

The Securities Appellate Tribunal on Wednesday rejected an appeal by Gensol Engineering Ltd to stay a SEBI interim order barring it and its promoters Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi over the issue of fund diversion and governance concerns. The bench of the appellate tribunal comprising Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and technical member Meera Swarup have given the company two weeks to reply to the SEBI on the temporary ex-parte order and directed the markets regulator to give a final

#### UK FTA: Goyal, exporters to meet on May 8

within four weeks.

Minister Piyush Goyal will meet representatives of export promotion councils (EPCs) here on May 8 to discuss matters related to the free trade agreement with the UK, an industry official said on

#### **RBI** recognises **FIMMDA**

ognised the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of in financial markets regulated by the central bank. had issued the framework for recognition of Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) in financial markets. The norms were issued in view of the potential role of SROs in strengthening compliance culture among their

#### **CCI** issues norms to assess predatory

of India (CCI) has notified the regulations for detertion, a move that will help the watchdog to more effectively assess alleged predatory pricing and deep discounting practices especially in the quick commerce and ecommerce segments.

\$60-70/A BARREL | Upstream players' capex plans to remain intact

### Softening crude oil prices to reduce import bill by ₹1.8L cr

**NEW DELHI** 

India, the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation, is likely to save as much as Rs 1.8 lakh crore on import of crude oil and LNG if the trend of softening international energy rates continues, Icra said Wednesday.

India, which meets over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs through imports, spent USD 242.4 billion on buying crude from overseas in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025. With domestic production meeting roughly half of the demand, it also spent USD 15.2 billion on import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the fiscal.

Oil prices in international markets fell to over four-year low of USD 60.23 per barrel earlier this week on fears of rising global supply at a time when demand outlook is uncertain. Brent crude and US West Texas Intermediate

**Rupee falls 42** 

paise to close

RUPEE & VS DOLLAR'S

1 USD = 84.80 INR\*

The rupee depreciated 42

paise to close at 84.77 against

the US dollar on Wednesday,

as heightened cross-border

tensions following India's

military strikes against ter-

rorist camps in Pakistan and

Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

weighed on the domestic cur-

exchange, the domestic unit

opened at 84.65 and moved

between an intra-day high of

84.47 and a low of 84.93

against the greenback. The

unit ended the session at

84.77, registering a fall of 42

paise over its previous closing

At the interbank foreign

at 84.77

MUMBAI



crude, which fell to their lowest since February 2021, have since risen to USD 62.4 on signs of more Europe and China demand and less US output. Still the rates are USD 20 per barrel lower than March 2024 when petrol and diesel prices were cut by Rs 2 per litre each ahead of general

"Icra expects average crude prices for FY2026 (April 2025 to March 2026 fiscal year) to remain in the USD 60-70 per barrel range," the rating agency said in a note.

At these levels, earnings of upstream companies are estimated at Rs 25,000 crore for

Upstream companies are ones that produce crude oil. "However, there would be savings of Rs 1.8 lakh crore for

crude imports and Rs 6,000

crore for LNG imports," it said. For fuel retailers, the marketing margins on auto-fuels will remain healthy, while LPG under-recoveries are likely to

Uncertainty related to global tariffs and their impact on

reduce, Icra said.

**Earnings of** upstream companies are estimated at ₹25,000 crore for FY2026, says ICRA

growth, coupled with an announcement by OPEC+ to steadily withdraw their production cuts, starting with 411,000 barrels per day addition from May 2025 and another 411,000 bpd from June 2025, have resulted in oil prices declining from about USD 77 a barrel as on March 31 to about USD 60-62.

Stating that India meets a large portion of its domestic crude oil requirements through imports, Icra said in the scenario where crude remains in USD 60-70 a barrel range, the profit before tax for upstream players in FY2026 is expected to be lower by Rs 25,000 crore.

Rs 1,00,350 per 10 grams on

Wednesday. It had ended at Rs

99,300 per 10 grams in the pre-

lier touched its lifetime high of

Rs 1,01,600 per 10 grams on

April 22, when it surged Rs

In addition, silver prices also

The yellow metal had ear-

vious market close.

**FPJ News Service** 

Intelligent investors on Wednesday reconfirmed their 'mantra of chasing resilience', and not dazzling short-term returns. Indian investors have been scrambling into havens such as gold, and diversifying

During the first 3 months of 2025, FIIs have been big sellers. Cumulatively FIIs sold equities for nearly Rs 1.30 lakh crore during this 3-month period. Key indices Sensex and Nifty settled higher on Wednesday as India launched missile strikes "Operation Sindoor" on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan

at 80,746.78. The Nifty 50 advanced by 34.80 pts to settle at 24,414.40. "Historical data suggests that

the Indian stock market has generally responded with resilience to serious geopolitical events. Except for the Parliament attack in 2001, all other incidents led to positive market returns over the medium to long term," said Abhishek Jaiswal, Fund Manager at Finavenue.

#### India to retaliate if UK's carbon tax hits exports

PTI

**NEW DELHI** 

The India-UK free trade pact has no provision to counter Britain's proposed carbon tax, but amid uncertainty and absence of UK legislation, New Delhi has preserved its right to retaliate or rebalance concessions, if future measures impact domestic exports, an official said. The UK government in December 2023 decided to implement its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism starting 2027.

As per economic think tank GTRI, India's exports worth \$775 million to the UK may be impacted due to its move to introduce carbon tax on products such as iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement, from 2027. The official said the free trade pact with the UK has no provisions to counter CBAM, which has the potential to nullify the concessions offered by Britain to India.

order in Gensol's case

Commerce and Industry Wednesday.

### as SRO

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said it has rec-India (FIMMDA) as an SRO In August last year, the RBI members.

pricing practices Competition Commission mining the cost of produc-

#### Gold rallies ₹1K to reclaim ₹1L/10g cent purity jumped Rs 1,050 to

PTI

**NEW DELHI** 

Gold prices surged Rs 1,000 to breach the crucial Rs 1 lakh per 10 gram-mark in the national capital on Wednesday as escalating tensions between India and Pakistan triggered a safe-haven buying rush.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity climbed Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,00,750 per 10 grams from Tuesday's closing of Rs 99,750 per 10 grams.

In retaliation for the



gets in Pakistan and PoK, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke.

Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per

rose Rs 440 to Rs 98,940 per kg. The white metal had settled at Rs 98,500 per kg on Tuesday. In the international markets, spot gold fell USD 62.12 or 1.8 per cent at USD 3,369.65 per ounce.

1,800.

### 'FTA to help double garment exports to Britain in 3 yrs'

**NEW DELHI** 

The free trade agreement (FTA) with the UK will help double India's ready-made garment exports to Britain in the next three years, AEPC said on Wednesday.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said that against the backdrop of demand contraction in major economies,

Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-Hamas war, American reciprocal tariff and Chinese belligerence, there was uncertainty and disruption impacting the global trade adversely. "This deal has come as a

boon, removing immediately tariff disadvantage of 9.6 per cent and making us competitive in the UK market. Now the Made in India ready-made garment will be cheaper on UK shelves and we will be at par

with some of our major competitors who enjoyed duty-free access in the UK market," he said. India is the fourth largest supplier of garments with a 6.1 per cent share of the total RMG import of the UK.

The exports to the UK from India grew 7.8 per cent to USD 1.4 billion in 2024-25. "With this deal in place, India is all poised to double the RMG exports to the UK in the next three years," he said.

#### **RBI** issues framework for

**Informist NEW DELHI** 

The Reserve Bank of India on laws and rules.

#### Investors chasing resilience, not dazzling short-term gains ience amid recent Indo-Pak TOP GAINERS DT **OP SINDOOR IMPACT**

attentive to the risks to both

sides of its dual mandate and

judges that the risks of higher

unemployment and higher

It added "economic activity

has continued to expand at a

solid pace" and the job market

remains "solid" while inflation

elevated."

though

meeting news meeting.

of the economic risks.

Jerome

addressed the issue at his post-

Stocks briefly ceded gains

after the rate announcement

but mostly recovered, with the

Dow Jones Industrial up 300

points despite some worries

over the Fed's characterisation

"remains somewhat

doesn't sound like a

Fed poised to lower

rates in the short

term. However, the

statement did not

address the tariffs,

**Powell** 

inflation have risen."

investment portfolios by buying fundamentally strong stocks after the markets started witnessing massive FII outflow from Jan-March.

and POK. The 30-share BSE

Tata Motors Bajaj Finance LII5 Eternal Adani Ports Tata Steel Sensex closed 105.71 pts higher

"Mkts exhibited strong resil-

border tensions, the measured market response indicated that geopolitical risks were largely priced in and expectations of de-escalation are prevailing among investors," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, at Geojit Investments. "What stands out in "Operation Sindoor" from the market perspective is its focused and nonescalatory nature. We have to wait and watch how the enemy reacts to these precision strikes by India. The mkt is unlikely to be impacted by the retaliatory strike by India since that was known and discounted by the market. The main catalyst of the market resilience in India is the sustained FII buying of the last 14 trading days which has touched a cumulative figure of Rs 43,940 crore in the cash market," said Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments.

### India opens govt procurement sector for UK firms under FTA

**NEW DELHI** 

After the UAE, India has opened its central government procurement for British companies under the free trade agreement (FTA) announced on Tuesday, an official said on Wednesday.

The official said British firms would be allowed to participate in the procurement of goods and services of the non-sensitive central-level entities only.

However, access to state and local government-level entities will be excluded.

"Eligible UK suppliers would be allowed to bid for domestic tenders as deemed in India' policy as well as to promote 'Make in India'.



medium and small enterprises.

Earlier, India opened the government procurement segment in the comprehensive trade pact with the UAE. Under that pact, UAE firms are allowed to participate in procurement tenders worth over Rs 200 crore.

In 2020, the government modified public procurement norms to give maximum pref-Class II local suppliers only," erence to companies whose the official said, adding carve goods and services have 50 

**Risk to MSMEs and Make** in India: GTRI Economic think tank GTRI

on Wednesday said allowing UK firms to participate in India's central government procurement tenders could crowd out MSMEs, which rely heavily on protected access to such contracts.

After the UAE, India has opened its central government procurement (GP) for British companies under the free trade agreement (FTA) announced on Tuesday, subject to certain conditions. British firms can now bid

for tenders, and those with just 20 per cent UK content will be treated as Class 2 Local Suppliers under India's Make in India policy. This effectively extends preferential treatment designed for Indian firms to foreign suppliers.

### new norms

Wednesday issued a framework for formulation of regulations, outlining the broad principles it will follow while making norms under various Framework reinforces and demonstrates the Reserve Bank's commitment to enhanced transparency and consultative approach for issuance of Regulations," the RBI said in a statement.

As per the framework, the central bank will first publish draft regulations, give at least 21 days for stakeholders and the public to submit their comments, provide a 'general statement' of its response to the comments received, and then issue the final regulations.

#### **CCEA OKs revised SHAKTI scheme** for allocation of coal to power plants PTI

**NEW DELHI** 

The Cabinet Committee on Affairs Economic Wednesday approved the revised Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI) for allocation of coal to the power sector to help them meet long-term and short-term coal requirement.

The approval was given by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a move

aimed at simplification of the linkage process. The CCEA "has approved

grant of fresh coal linkages to thermal power plants of central sector/state sector/independent power producers (IPPs)," the coal ministry said in a statement. With the introduction of

Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) Policy, two windows --- coal linkage to central gencos/states at notified price and coal linkage to all gencos at a premium above notified price -- have been proposed. The ministry further said 'under coal at notified price' segment the existing mechanism for grant of coal linkage to central sector thermal power projects (TPPs) including JVs and their subsidiary will continue.

Moreover, coal linkage earmarked to states may be utilized by states in its own genco, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to be identified through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) or existing IPPs having PPA for setting up of a new expansion unit under 'coal at notified price' window.

ended higher in the face of continuous volatility after a flare-up in tensions between India and Pakistan on Wednesday. Traders picked up bonds on the hope that there would be no further escalation in tensions between the two nuclear powers, and looked ahead to

#### SEBI says REITs, InvITs must declare quarterly results, tightens disclosures **Informist**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India Wednesday amended the master circulars governing Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts to declare financial results every quarter. These changes will come into effect in the period started Apr. 1, the regulator said in two circulars

uploaded on its website. Earlier, these trusts had to declare their financial information only in half-yearly and annual intervals. The quarterly filings will have to be done within 45 days of the end of the quarter and the annual result filing can be done within 60 days of the March quarter ending, in line with other listed

financial results in respect of the last quarter along with the results for the entire financial

year, with a note stating that the figures of last quarter are the balancing figures between

audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the published year to date figures upto the third quarter of the current financial year," SEBI said. The same rule applies verbatim to REITs. A statement of Net Distributate Cash Flows will be filed alongside the financial results, the circulars said, and the entity will disclose it in the annual and half-yearly reports. SEBI also added to the list of disclosures the entities will have to make, which will include statements on assets and liabilities, changes in unitholders' equity, cash flows, "The InvIT shall submit net assets at fair value and total returns at fair value. These will have to be made on a halfyearly and annual basis only.

### | Crisil report |

Softer vegetable prices lower meal cost in Apr

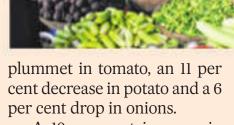
Softer vegetable prices helped in lowering the cost of homemade meals in April this year,

a report said on Wednesday.

**NEW DELHI** 

As per the "roti rice rate" report prepared by an arm of domestic rating agency Crisil, the cost of a typical vegetarian meal reduced 4 per cent yearon-year and 1 per cent monthon-month to Rs 26.3 in April.

The on-year fall in prices was attributed to the sharp decline in vegetable prices, which included a 34 per cent



A 19 per cent increase in

vegetable oil prices due to higher import duties and a 6 on-year and 2 per cent month-

prices limited the decline in thali costs, the report said. A non-vegetarian thali declined by 4 per cent year-

per cent rise in LPG cylinder

it added.

the decline in the price of a non-veg meal was influenced by the softening of the vegetable prices and a dip in poultry prices, which was hit by "Going forward, wheat and pulses prices are expected to

oversupply as bird flu in some to be rangebound while tompeninsular states impacted ato prices are forecast to rise moderate amid strong domestic output," said Pushan rice, dal, curd, and salad. A

on-month to Rs 53.9 per plate, over the next 2-3 months as

Further, the report said that from Argentina, Indonesia,

onion, tomato, and potato, Sharma, director of research at non-vegetarian thali has the Crisil Intelligence. "Edible oil same elements except for dal, prices are also likely to soften which is replaced by chicken.

though, are expected to inch up with a projected increase in exports. And among vegetables, onion prices are likely on account of seasonality." A vegetarian thali comprises roti, vegetables such as

global supplies pick up, mainly

and Malaysia. Rice prices,

#### Gilts up; India-**Pak tensions** seen ebbing after flare-up

Informist **NEW DELHI** 

Government bond prices rate cuts in India, dealers said.

The 6.79%, 2034 bond ended at INR 103.17, up from INR 103.07 on Tuesday. The 10-year benchmark yield ended at 6.34%, against 6.35% on Tuesday. Price gains were not significant as caution about the geopolitical situation prevailed, though the two-way trade led to a rise in bond market volumes. Gilts had fallen slightly for a few minutes after opening flat, before reversing losses.

### Briefs

#### Voltas Q4 profit more than doubles to ₹236 crore

Home appliances maker Voltas on Wednesday reported over twofold rise in net profit at Rs 236 crore for March quarter FY25 driven by higher revenues. It had posted a net profit of Rs 111 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in a regulatory filing.

#### **UBL Jan-Mar** profit up 19.8% at ₹97.76 crore

Beer maker United Breweries Ltd (UBL) on Wednesday reported a 19.87 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 97.76 crore in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 compared to Rs 81.55 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago.

#### GreenLine partners with Shriram Fin

Essar group's green logistics solutions provider GreenLine Mobility Solutions has partnered with Shriram Finance for the deployment of a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks, a statement said on Wednesday. GreenLine Mobility Solutions on Wednesday flagged off a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks at Chakan, Pune, the statement said. The deployment is supported by Shriram Finance Ltd. GreenLine is an Essar venture and India's only green logistics operator of LNG and electricpowered heavy commercial trucks.

#### Solex Energy bags ₹451 cr order from KPI **Green Energy**

Solex Energy on Wednesday said it has secured a Rs 451.41 crore order from KPI Green Energy to supply solar modules. The modules will be used in KPI Green's GUVNL projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio, a company statement said.

#### Welspun Corp bags ₹1,950 cr order

Homegrown Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) has secured an export order worth Rs 1,950 crore for the supply of line pipes and bends. With these new orders, its current consolidated global order book stands at around Rs 19,300 crore, the company said.

#### **Mouri Tech** files ₹1,500 cr IPO papers

IT Solutions and services firm Mouri Tech has refiled draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,500 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). In its fresh Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on May 5, Mouri Tech proposed to raise Rs 250 crore through selling new shares, while promoters and a selling shareholder plan to sell stock to the tune of Rs 1,250 crore.

#### Routematic raises \$40 mn

Business-to-business ride services company Routematic has raised USD 40 million in a funding round led by venture capital firm Fullerton Carbon Action Fund and Shift4Good, senior officials of the company said on Wednesday. The company plans to use the fund to strengthen its business matrix and expedite its journey towards public listing, Routematic, Founder and CEO, Sriram Kannan told PTI.

### SATCOM SERVICES: GOVT ISSUES LETTER OF INTENT TO STARLINK

**Agencies** NEW DELHI

The government has issued Letter of Intent to Starlink for satcom services, sources said on Wednesday. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX -- the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet worldwide using satellite technology.

Sources told PTI that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has now issued Letter of Intent to Starlink. Prior to this, the government had issued licences to Eutelsat OneWeb



Satellite Communications. Unlike conventional satellite services that rely on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above earth).

This constellation of LEO satellites (7,000 now but eventually set to grow to over 40,000) and its mesh delivers broadband internet capable of

supporting streaming, online gaming, and video calls.

Security has emerged as a

core concern for the government as it considers the implications of allowing global satcom firms to operate in Indian skies. Union Minister of State for Telecom on Tuesday said that while the issue remains "a little complicated," the proposal is in its last stages of review. He was addressing reporters during the Bharat Telecom event in Delhi. The importance of this, especially in the current climate. "The government's security norms for satcom are important, especially in the present scenario where hostile nation Pakistan is making an attempt to hack the country's system," he said.

#### Jio adds 21.4 lakh mobile users in March; Airtel gains 12.5 lakh

Reliance Jio cemented its lead in Indian telecom market adding 21.74 lakh wireless subscribers in March, while Bharti Airtel's monthly gains were at 12.50 lakh users, according to data released by telecom regulator TRAI on Wednesday.

Vodafone Idea lost 5.41 lakh mobile users from its network, and its subscriber base shrunk to 20.53 crore users.

As per the data, Jio's addition of 21.74 lakh wireless users during the month pushed up its subscriber count to 46.97 crore.

For Bharti Airtel, the mobile base expanded to 38.98 crore, with addition of 12.50 lakh users in March. The urban mobile subscriptions fell 0.26 per cent while rural wireless count was up 0.92 per cent.

"Wireline subscribers increased from 36.91 million at the end of February-25 to 37.04 million at the end of March-25," TRAI release said pegging the monthly rate of growth at 0.37 per cent.

### PNB Q4 PAT surges 52%

Plans to raise ₹8,000 cr via bonds in FY26

PTI NEW DELHI

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Wednesday reported 52 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 4,567 crore for March quarter FY25 helped by robust business growth and recovery. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 36,705 crore from Rs 32,361 crore a year ago, PNB said in a regulatory

Speaking to the media after the board meeting, PNB MD and CEO Ashok Chandra said the growth in profit can be attributed to overall business growth, recovery in technically written off accounts and treasury income, among others.

Chandra said the bank's capital adequacy ratio remains high at 17 per cent and therefore there is no need for equity capital during the current financial year.

However, the board approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 8,000 crore through issuance of Basel III-compliant bonds to be raised in one or more tranches during 2025-26.

### Coal India Jan-Mar net profit rises 12% to ₹9,604 cr

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

State-owned Coal India Ltd on Wednesday reported a 12 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 9,604.02 crore in the quarter ended March 2025 on the back of higher income.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 8,572.14 crore in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE.

January-March period rose to



Rs 41,761.76 crore from Rs 40,457.59 crore a year ago, the filing said.

The company said that the Ib Valley coal washery of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) with a capacity of 10 (MTPA), which began its oper-

ations in April last year, became the largest non-coking coal washery in the country.

The facility has already delivered Rs 314 crore in additional revenue, reinforcing the value of infrastructure modernisation, it said.

"Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the Q4 of 2025 rose significantly to Rs 12,873.19 crore, registering an 11 per cent yearon-year growth from Rs 11,581.57 crore in Q4 of the pre-Total income during the million tonnes per annum vious fiscal," the coal behe-

#### Mkts vs Missiles: Op Sindoor **Tests Stock Market Nerves**

Teji Mandi

\topn a significant military development, India's Armed Forces launched 'Operation Sindoor' late Tuesday, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK. The operation has sparked global attention politically and financially raising questions about its impact on the markets. This article examines how markets have historically responded to India's military strikes and looks at how they are reacting to the latest developments under Operation Sindoor.

#### What's Happening?

In retaliation to the deadly Pahalgam attack on April 22 — which claimed 26 lives (25 Indian citizens and one Nepali) — the Indian Armed Forces initiated Operation Sindoor on Tuesday night. The mission targeted terror camps located in Pakistan and PoK. According to the Ministry of Defence, the targeted sites were being used to plan and execute attacks against India. Nine locations were hit in total. The ministry clarified that no Pakistani military bases were involved, with India

**How is Today's Market Reacting?** 

restraint.

Indian equity benchmarks

deliberately choosing its tar-

gets to exercise strategic

tejimandi

Nifty50 and BSE Sensex opened marginally lower on Wednesday (May 07), defying expectations of a sharper decline after Operation Sindoor. The markets, however, quickly recovered and touched a high of 24,449.69. At the time of writing (10:17 AM), the Nifty50 is trading at 24,301.20, down 78.49 points or 0.32%, while the BSE Sensex is at 80,392.19, down 248.88 points or 0.31%. The pullback after hitting the day's high reflects a cautious stance among investors.

#### What's Next?

As Indian markets trend lower and the India VIX continues to climb, investor sentiment remains cautious. The next move will depend largely on Pakistan's response. According to LiveMint, Kranthi Bathini of WealthMills Securities noted that while Indian equities may react sharply in the short term, a gradual recovery is likely — provided the situation doesn't escalate. A prolonged or widened conflict could dent investor confidence. Market expert Ajay Bagga also pointed out that the geopolitical risk to Indian markets has now materialised with the strikes.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt Ltd) is a SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA). Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visit www.tejimandi.com to know more.

#### **NTPC** to raise ₹4,000 cr via NCDs on May 9

PTI

**NEW DELHI** 

State-run power giant NTPC on Wednesday said it has decided to raise Rs 4,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis on May 9.

Proceeds will be utilised for, inter alia, funding of capital expenditure, refinancing of existing loans and other general corporate purposes, according to a regulatory fil-

According to the filing, the NTPC has decided to issue unsecured non-convertible debentures of Rs 4,000 crore on May 9, 2025, through private placement at a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent per annum for a tenor of 10 years, maturing on May 9, 2035, under the board resolution on June 29, 2024 and subsequent approval obtained through shareholders' resolution on August 29, 2024.

This is the second issue of debentures under the above mentioned approval, it stated, adding that the debentures are proposed to be listed on the BSE.

#### **Reliance Power** raises ₹348 cr via preferential issue of shares

**NEW DELHI** 

Reliance Wednesday said it has raised Rs 348.15 crore through prefer-

ential issue of shares.

The company said 9.55 crore equity shares were Reliance issued to Infrastructure (promoter) and 1 crore shares to Basera Home Finance Private Limited (pub-

The 10.55 crore fully paid-up equity shares have been issued at a price of Rs 33 per share (including a premium of Rs 23 per share) aggregating to Rs 348.15 crore, it said.

The capital infusion will strengthen company's growth trajectory in the renewable energy sector. The company made a preferential issue of 46.20 crore warrants aggregating Rs 1,525 crore in October 2024. A minimum upfront amount of 25 per cent was paid on the warrants and the balance 75 per cent was payable in 18 months.

### HUDCO FY25 net profit jumps 28% to ₹2,709 cr

Plans to tap Japanese mkt to raise \$2 billion

**FPJ News Service** 

State-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) on Wednesday announced a 28% (y-o-y) jump in its net profit at Rs 2,709.14 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025 as compared to Rs 2,116.74 crore recorded for FY2024. The results indicate the company's effective cost management and operations efficiencies. The company also declared a final dividend of Rs 1.05 per equity share for FY25, subject to shareholder approval.

The company has reported a 3.93% rise in its consolidated



net profit at Rs 727.74 crore for Q4 FY25 as against Rs 700.16 crore in the same period of last year. "Our financial results are reflective of our strategic initiatives as well as the support of all stakeholders, and being a government company with lowest levels of net non-performing assets, debt-equity and comfortable compound annual growth rate, is envisaged to play a catalytic role in financing infrastructure beyond housing for creating assets for Viksit Bharat," HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha told mediapersons. He said the company is planning to raise around \$2 billion through overseas borrowings in FY26 by tapping the Japanese market through a mix

of ECBs and bonds. In the second quarter of FY26, the company plans to raise \$500 million through ECBS, which also includes a bond series. Both will be in yendenominated terms. From overseas borrowings, it may also look at the possibility of issuing social bonds in the Japanese market this fiscal year. Nearly 80% of the company's total bor-

rowing is from the domestic bonds and loans. Of the Rs 65,000 crore that HUDCO plans to raise, it will raise about Rs 1,000 crore through 54EC capital gains bonds and Rs 5,000 crore through five-year zero coupon bonds. CMD said that the initiatives

taken during FY25 have already begun to yield results, as "our weighted average incremental cost of borrowing has reduced from 7.01% last year to 6.75% currently. Total revenue from operation rose 32.46% to Rs 10,311.29 crore from Rs 7,784.29 crore in 2023-24. The growth reflects strong demand for diversified housing and infrastructure products and successful market penetration. Loan book y-o-y grew from Rs 92,654 crore to Rs 1,24,828 crore, recording an increase of nearly 35% over the previous year.

### **DABUR INDIA POSTS** ₹313 CR PAT IN Q4

**NEW DELHI** 

Dabur India on Wednesday reported an 8.35 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 312.73 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025 impacted by higher expenses in a challenging demand environment.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 341.22 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 2,830.14 crore as against Rs 2,814.64 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses were higher at Rs 2,559.39 crore as compared to Rs 2,490.43 crore.

FMCG demand trends

Deal volumes remain resilient in Apr

FMCG demand trends remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25

remained subdued during the fourth quarter and full year 2024-25. Revenue for the full year 2024-25 stood at Rs 12,563 crore, the company said.

"Despite facing some pressures in the India business, our international business enabled us to successfully navigate the complex external environment. Our International Business achieved 19% constant currency growth in the fourth quarter and 17% during the full year," Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said.

### BMW earnings drop 25% as Chinese competition, tariffs bite

**FPJ News Service** 

BMW has reported a 25% fall in earnings as it adjusts to new global tariffs and stiff competition in the Chinese market. However, the carmaker maintained its full-year forecast that profits would broadly match last year's, saying it anticipated some global tariffs would be rolled back

The company said on Wednesday that its earnings

reached 3.1bn euros, 25% down on the same period last year, according to a Financial Times report.

increasingly Chinese market.

before tax in the first quarter

▲ dditional Collector Suchita Bhikane has PTI

It added that the EU's antisubsidy tariff on Chinese imports of electric vehicles had hit earnings by a "low three-digit million" range: it imports some of the cars it sells in Europe from China. Adjusted for currency fluctuations, revenues fell 9% to 33.8bn euros, which the company mainly attributed to an competitive

#### **Infinx acquires US** firm i3 Verticals for \$96 million

City-headquartered Infinx on

Wednesday said it has acquired Nasdaq-listed i3 Verticals' healthcare revenue cycle management business for USD 96 million. The 2012founded Infinx is aiming to strengthen presence in the healthcare revenue cycle management (RCM) space and expand footprint into new customer segments like academic medical centers and other large provider groups through the acquisition, as per a company statement.

#### at \$2.1 billion: Grant Thornton report **IANS**

NEW DELHI

The private equity (PE) landscape in April remained steady in terms of deal volume, clocking 139 transactions - a marginal 1 per cent rise - continuing its consistent monthly trend between 130 to 140 deals, a report showed on Wednesday.

While no billion-dollar deals were recorded this month - unlike the two in the previous month - investor appetite remained resilient, with six high-value transactions (ranging between \$100



million and \$999 million) totalling \$2.1 billion, according to the Grant Thornton Bharat Dealtracker.

The standout deal was Warburg Pincus and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's \$862 million investment in IDFC FIRST Bank.

"Deal volumes remained resilient, but the sharp dip in both M&amp:A and PE values

s part of its CSR

initiative, GIC Re, in

reflects growing investor caution on taking large bets. While cross border deals slowed down, domestic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and PE/VC activity is stable," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Growth at

Grant Thornton Bharat. PE/VCs are focusing on early-stage investments so that they can shape financial performance and drive growth. "India's ability to navigate the US tariff conundrum and the response to the recent terror attacks will be critical to drive deal activity in 2025," she mentioned.

### Suchita Bhikane is MSETCL ED (HR)

been appointed as Executive Director (HR) of Maharashtra State **Electricity Transmission** Company Ltd (MSETCL). Bhikane was earlier working as deputy commissioner (Land Acquisition) in Konkan Bhavan. Bhikane has done her graduation from Agricultural College, Pune and post-graduation from Konkan Agricultural University, Dapoli. She has also obtained a law degree (LLB). Thereafter, in 2010, she joined the government service directly as Deputy Collector through Maharashtra Public Service Commission examination. She has



Collector in the **Employment Guarantee** Scheme in Sangli for four years. She has worked as Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation) in Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority for four and a half years. She has also worked as Managing Director in Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandalepressindian corporates are

#### QNB becomes first bank in MEA to open branch in GIFT City atar National Bank

(QNB) has become the first bank from the MEA region to open a branch in GIFT City in Gujarat. Commenting on the launch of the new branch, QNB Group CEO Abdullah Mubarak Al Khalifa, said, "India's banking sector is poised for rapid growth on the strength of robust economic growth prospects, and banks have demonstrated strong operational performance along with improving asset quality. With the opening of the GIFT City branch, QNB is expanding its footprint at an opportune time when

seeking strong banking partners for supporting their growth plans. Combined with QNB's global outreach and expertise, as well as its pioneering role in shaping the international financial landscape, India presents long term growth opportunities for wholesale banking. Ali Darwish, senior executive vice president of International Business at QNB Group, said, "India's foreign exchange reserves exceed \$650 billion, ranking amongst the world's largest. With the new branch in GIFT, QNB has enhanced its product suite with a multi-currency proposition."

#### GIC Re CSR initiative improves school infra in Thane district

collaboration with the VMM Foundation (Virangna Mahila Mandal), has significantly contributed to the improvement of school infrastructure by constructing new toilet facilities in five schools across the Shapur region of Thane district. The beneficiary schools are located in the villages of Kinavali, Mugaon, Naryangaon, Veloli, and Umbrai. This initiative is a crucial step toward enhancing hygiene and sanitation standards, ensuring a healthier and safer learning environment for students.



Re and the VMM Foundation reaffirmed their commitment to creating lasting impact through public-private partnerships focused on strengthening rural infrastructure and supporting inclusive education.





### Mkts close higher despite profit-booking



All figures in ₹ crores



**Motilal Oswal Team** 

MUMBAI

Tifty Index opened negative by around 150 points on account of geopolitical concerns but witnessed a sharp uptick to 24450 zones in the first tick. It was followed by volatility and cool off in the first hour itself but again saw a gradual up move throughout the session. It formed a bullish candle on daily frame and managed to close above 24400 marks. However it has started to form lower highs from the last three sessions and even though support based buying is intact, the index is lacking follow up at higher zones for it to sustain. Now it has to hold above 24400 zones for strength to regain towards 24650 then 24750 zones while supports can be seen at 24200 then 24050 zones.

On option front, Maximum Call OI is at 24400 then 25000 strike while Maximum Put OI is at 24300 then 24400 strike. Call writing is seen at 24400 then 24850 strike while Put writing is seen at 24300 then 24350 strike.

Option data suggests a broader trading range in between 23800 to 24800 zones while an immediate range between 24100 to 24600 levels.

The S&P BSE Sensex Index opened on a negative note but quickly recovered from the initial decline. The index faced resistance near 80800

marks where it encountered sudden profit booking. In the latter part of the session, the Sensex traded sideways within a range of approximately 300 points but managed to close with gains of around 100 points. On the daily chart it formed a bullish candle following a gap down opening, indicating buying interest at lower levels. Now if it manages to hold above 80500 zones then it can move higher towards 81000 then 81300 levels else weakness could be seen towards 80500 and 80200 levels.

Bank Nifty Index opened marginally lower near 54000 zones but remained quite volatile in a wider range of 500 points in the initial hour of the session. However gradual recovery was seen from lower levels towards 54700 zones in the latter part of the day and finally it closed with gains of around 340 points near 54600 levels. It formed a Bullish candle on daily scale as buying interest is visible at lower levels and it took support near its 20 DEMA. Now it has to hold above 54250 zones for a bounce towards 55000 then 55250 levels while on the downside support is seen at 54250 then 54000 zones.

Nifty future closed positive with gains of 0.17% at 24472 levels. Positive setup seen in Paytm, PEL, BSE, IIFL, Bharat Forge, Aarti Industries, Motherson, Tata Motors, SRF, AB Capital, Maruti, APL Apollo and KPIT

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Top losers (value)

# Stocks to watch out for

#### **Techno Electric:**

Techno Electric & Engineering Company Ltd. (TEECL), has officially launched Techno Digital Infra Pvt Ltd, its whollyowned digital infrastructure arm. Backed by an ambitious investment plan of USD 1 billion, Techno Digital plans an integrated network of hyperscale and edge data centers targeting a cumulative capacity of 250 MW spread across the country. This strategic move marks a transformative leap to revolutionize India's digital economy, aligned with the Government of India's flagship programme, Digital

#### **Solex Energy:**

India.

 Solex Energy announced that it has won a major order from KPI Green Energy Limited, a leading Renewable Power Producer and EPC company. As part of this landmark agreement, Solex Energy will supply 310 MW of state-of-the-art N-Type TOPCon 615Wp Glassto-Glass (G12R) Solar PV Modules, valued at Rs 451.41 crore and the deliveries for the same will commence from Sept'25. The modules will be used in KPI Green Energy's GUVNL Projects, part of their own Independent Power Producer (IPP) portfolio.

#### **Jindal Drilling:**

 Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has issued

Notification of Award to Jindal Drilling for deployment of rig Jindal Explorer on its subsequent contract for a period of 3 years at Effective Day Rate (EDR) of USD 35,138.71. The current contract of Rig Jindal Explorer with ONGC is expected to conclude in Q1FY26 and subsequent contract is expected to commence in Q3FY26.

#### Lupin:

• Lupin announced that it has launched Eslicarbazepine Acetate Tablets, 200 mg, 400 mg, 600 mg, and 800 mg, following the approval of its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) from the USFDA. Lupin is one of the first ANDA applicants and is eligible for 180 days of shared generic exclusivity.

#### **Tata Chemicals:**

 Tata Chemicals Ltd on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss from continuing operations at Rs 67 crore for the quarter ended March. Its net loss stood at Rs 818 crore in the year-ago period. Total income fell marginally to Rs 3,551 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal from Rs 3,589 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

#### MRF:

Tyre maker MRF Ltd on Wednesday reported 29.28 per cent increase in consolidated net profit from continuing operations at Rs 512.11 crore for March quarter FY25, riding on higher sales. The company had earned a net profit from continuing operations of Rs 396.11 crore in the year-ago period, MRF said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 7,074.82 crore as against Rs 6,349.36 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

**BUY TIRUMALCHM** 

CMP

**TRGT** 

250.75

261.27

Hisk-o-moter of Benchman

(Nifty Midcap 150 TRI)

242

#### **Hot stocks**

Company Name	5/6/2025	7 DSMA	21 DSMA	50DSMA	250 DSMA	BSE 1 Year High Price	Pulscore
Tata Consumer	1154.80	1159.99	1121.16	1036.65	1063.25	1247.39	100
Dr Reddy's Labs	1159.90	1178.26	1156.12	1153.46	1259.63	1420.20	100
Axis Bank	1161.00	1178.10	1147.01	1083.91	1138.77	1339.55	100
Cylent	1161.90	1185.34	1189.97	1251.45	1706.80	2156.35	100
Clean Science	1173.00	1182.51	1187.25	1214.31	1401.97	1690.00	100
Global Health	1186.80	1198.74	1233.47	1216.31	1158.92	1443.95	100
Symphony	1190.55	1169.47	1154.38	1146.51	1308.99	1878.95	100
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1224.14	1135.44	1040.26	1701.87	2450.00	100
Bata India	1205.65	1208.09	1218.20	1235.11	1374.41	1632.00	100
Lloyds Metals	1209.55	1222.92	1246.30	1199.10	981.84	1477.50	100
Aurobindo Pharm	1211.15	1224.24	1174.95	1146.28	1288.12	1592.55	100
Voltas	1229.65	1236.24	1281.82	1337.55	1550.83	1946.20	100
Balaji Amines	1235.40	1275.66	1269.26	1287.05	1941.48	2550.15	100
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1242.53	1188.10	1245.06	1504.31	1928.75	100
Deepak Fertiliz.	1243.50	1285.75	1238.88	1143.01	1022.82	1443.35	100
Godrej Consumer	1250.90	1260.21	1228.99	1132.29	1268.69	1541.30	100
Sobha	1265.50	1291.81	1231.97	1219.23	1597.55	2178.74	100
Max Financial	1268.25	1287.98	1221.45	1132.81	1099.72	1324.70	100
Macrotech Devel.	1297.95	1314.61	1251.43	1196.91	1273.49	1648.00	100
Astral	1299.55	1340.13	1329.22	1322.88	1796.72	2453.95	100
Adani Ports	1320.35	1252.95	1214.77	1164.71	1310.67	1607.95	100
Prestige Estates	1330.70	1344.10	1241.02	1205.17	1589.98	2072.75	100
Rainbow Child.	1358.70	1368.99	1430.42	1356.28	1379.18	1708.50	100
Mahanagar Gas	1377.65	1346.52	1323.11	1319.48	1475.04	1988.55	100
lpca Labs.	1382.00	1395.69	1396.72	1395.76	1418.05	1757.65	100
Glenmark Pharma	1405.15	1388.41	1408.48	1408.31	1462.87	1830.05	100
Gland Pharma	1414.20	1416.19	1442.45	1517.70	1738.94	2220.95	100
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1392.97	1292.86	1260.15	1363.69	1608.95	100
ICICI Bank	1431.65	1425.29	1377.91	1313.05	1246.85	1446.25	100
ERIS Lifescience	1456.70	1472.70	1411.29	1339.42	1244.34	1593.00	100
Torrent Power	1458.70	1515.96	1548.54	1438.17	1568.91	2037.35	100
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1531.16	1463.89	1388.20	1706.82	2977.10	100
Tech Mahindra	1496.55	1486.85	1392.09	1457.84	1552.76	1807.40	100
Phoenix Mills	1498.45	1592.28	1595.11	1593.14	1665.86	2068.15	100
J B Chemicals &	1503.45	1574.84	1582.13	1597.45	1778.30	2029.00	100
Cipla	1510.70	1535.72	1496.60	1479.65	1510.63	1702.00	100

#### Ilnwardly & Downwardly Cos

opwarui	y a Dui		ıuıy		
Company Name	4/29/2025	5/7/2025	Days	Gain/Loss %	Per Day Averge
CEAT	3061.40	3630.00	5	18.57	113.72
Schaeffler India	3280.70	3625.55	5	10.51	68.97
Muthoot Finance	2150.95	2307.05	5	7.26	31.22
M & M	2909.20	3119.85	5	7.24	42.13
ICICI Securities	837.30	895.70	5	6.97	11.68
-					

#### Top gainers (value)

Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	Chg in ₹	% chg	Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	Chg in ₹	% chg
MRF	134964.41	140428.70	5464.29	4.05	Godfrey Phillips	8673.35	8422.65	-250.70	-2.89
Page Industries	45696.55	46355.60	659.05	1.44	P & G Hygiene	14135.20	13919.55	-215.65	-1.53
Bosch	29894.70	30501.80	607.10	2.03	Mazagon Dock	2968.60	2817.45	-151.15	-5.09
LMW	15841.65	16243.20	401.55	2.53	Craftsman Auto	4750.75	4643.60	-107.15	-2.26
Hitachi Energy	14377.75	14741.20	363.45	2.53	Bajaj Auto	7942.80	7846.80	-96.00	-1.21
ZF Commercial	12066.35	12403.35	337.00	2.79	Radico Khaitan	2534.00	2448.05	-85.95	-3.39
Honeywell Auto	34833.05	35144.50	311.45	0.89	Asian Paints	2417.95	2332.65	-85.30	-3.53
Mah. Scooters	11058.70	11279.80	221.10	2.00	Bharat Dynamics	1527.65	1448.30	-79.35	-5.19
Kaynes Tech	5623.40	5843.45	220.05	3.91	Bombay Burmah	1835.40	1774.30	-61.10	-3.33
V-Mart Retail	3209.05	3403.25	194.20	6.05	3M India	29578.90	29524.25	-54.65	-0.18
Bajaj Finance	8797.10	8985.50	188.40	2.14	Esab India	4650.85	4600.20	-50.65	-1.09
Apar Inds.	5580.35	5761.70	181.35	3.25	J K Cements	5100.10	5055.90	-44.20	-0.87
Coforge	7420.10	7598.45	178.35	2.40	Britannia Inds.	5391.15	5348.75	-42.40	-0.79
Oracle Fin.Serv.	8377.00	8546.00	169.00	2.02	Fine Organic	4158.00	4116.70	-41.30	-0.99
Endurance Tech.	1870.10	2023.70	153.60	8.21	Data Pattern	2199.70	2161.95	-37.75	-1.72
SRF	2924.85	3053.25	128.40	4.39	Sun Pharma.Inds.	1818.75	1781.35	-37.40	-2.06
Amber Enterp.	5865.15	5987.55	122.40	2.09	Hind.Aeronautics	4507.10	4469.90	-37.20	-0.83
Abbott India	30145.75	30259.75	114.00	0.38	Suven Pharma	1118.50	1081.40	-37.10	-3.32
KEI Industries	3193.35	3294.85	101.50	3.18	UltraTech Cem.	11692.55	11656.50	-36.05	-0.31
Shree Cement	29471.70	29565.65	93.95	0.32	Adani Energy Sol	907.20	871.35	-35.85	-3.95
Cera Sanitary.	5315.65	5406.55	90.90	1.71	Interglobe Aviat	5323.00	5291.15	-31.85	-0.60
Solar Industries	13197.05	13287.50	90.45	0.69	Grasim Inds	2729.00	2697.85	-31.15	-1.14
HDFC AMC	4338.05	4426.55	88.50	2.04	Eicher Motors	5510.85	5485.00	-25.85	-0.47
KPR Mill Ltd	1019.10	1101.60	82.50	8.10	Linde India	6206.80	6181.10	-25.70	-0.41
Privi Speci.	1880.00	1962.00	82.00	4.36	Apollo Hospitals	7004.30	6978.90	-25.40	-0.36
CCL Products	694.95	776.00	81.05	11.66	Grindwell Norton	1571.70	1548.75	-22.95	-1.46
Persistent Sys	5420.00	5498.15	78.15	1.44	Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1459.40	-22.00	-1.49
Angel One	2296.75	2372.90	76.15	3.32	Polycab India	5907.65	5885.85	-21.80	-0.37
Aarti Drugs	349.75	419.70	69.95	20.00	Pidilite Inds.	3003.00	2981.70	-21.30	-0.71
Piramal Enterp.	964.75	1033.95	69.20	7.17	Carborundum Uni	981.75	961.65	-20.10	-2.05
Timken India	2635.90	2704.40	68.50	2.60	Akzo Nobel	3494.80	3475.45	-19.35	-0.55
Indiamart Inter.	2204.35	2272.60	68.25	3.10	Krishna Institu.	663.25	644.25	-19.00	-2.86
ABB	5333.00	5399.50	66.50	1.25	Patanjali Foods	1851.20	1832.80	-18.40	-0.99
Multi Comm. Exc.	5998.85	6065.15	66.30	1.11	Nestle India	2355.00	2336.85	-18.15	-0.77
Mankind Pharma	2366.90	2430.05	63.15	2.67	Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1364.05	-17.95	-1.30
Muthoot Finance	2246.05	2307.05	61.00	2.72	Sanofi India	5829.95	5812.15	-17.80	-0.31
Kama Holdings	2632.10	2691.20	59.10	2.25	JBM Auto	683.40	666.00	-17.40	-2.55
One 97	815.30	873.85	58.55	7.18	Natco Pharma	830.20	813.35	-16.85	-2.03
Tata Elxsi	5700.50	5758.50	58.00	1.02	Chola Financial	1880.70	1864.05	-16.65	-0.89
Bharat Forge	1085.10	1140.45	55.35	5.10	Chambal Fert.	725.50	709.00	-16.50	-2.27
Bajaj Holdings	11843.05	11898.35	55.30	0.47	HCL Technologies	1579.10	1562.65	-16.45	-1.04
CRISIL	4647.20	4702.35	55.15	1.19	Sun TV Network	612.70	597.10	-15.60	-2.55
Navin Fluo.Intl.	4619.75	4674.85	55.10	1.19	boy Technol-	4099.35	4083.90	-15.45	-0.38
CEAT	3576.25	3630.00	53.75	1.50	Astrazeneca Phar	8201.30	8186.40	-14.90	-0.18
Ratnamani Metals	2568.65	2622.10	53.45	2.08	Reliance Industr	1420.55	1406.00	-14.55	-1.02
Cummins India	2790.85	2844.15	53.30	1.91	GE Shipping Co	887.85	873.40	-14.45	-1.63

#### **Stock Ideas**

#### TIRUMALCHM -**Technical call** of the day

After making double bottom, the stock attempted to bounce back from the support levels as indicated through trendline on daily charts. The RSI indicator is also indicating a possible formation of positive RSI divergence suggesting bullish

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Top gaine	ers (%)		
Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	% chg
Aarti Drugs	349.75	419.70	20.00
Welspun Living	120.60	135.05	11.98
CCL Products	694.95	776.00	11.66
Endurance Tech.	1870.10	2023.70	8.21
K P R Mill Ltd	1019.10	1101.60	8.10
One 97	815.30	873.85	7.18
Piramal Enterp.	964.75	1033.95	7.17
IIFL Finance	344.05	367.85	6.92
V-Mart Retail	3209.05	3403.25	6.05
Gujarat Alkalies	590.40	624.80	5.83
Aarti Industries	434.45	458.75	5.59
VIP Inds.	306.45	323.40	5.53
EIH	351.45	370.35	5.38
Samvardh. Mothe.	135.35	142.50	5.28
Kalpataru Proj.	924.45	972.00	5.14
Bharat Forge	1085.10	1140.45	5.10
Tata Motors	647.80	680.50	5.05
KECIntl.	691.15	724.60	4.84
Sundram Fasten.	917.35	960.40	4.69
Aditya Birla Cap	191.80	200.80	4.69
Vardhman Textile	451.75	472.80	4.66
Finolex Inds.	171.00	178.90	4.62
SRF	2924.85	3053.25	4.39
Privi Speci.	1880.00	1962.00	4.36
KRBL	294.90	307.15	4.15
MRF	134964.41	140428.70	4.05
Kalyan Jewellers	502.50	522.65	4.01
Kaynes Tech	5623.40	5843.45	3.91
Intellect Design	783.00	813.55	3.90
Kajaria Ceramics	797.70	828.40	3.85
NBCC	92.38	95.93	3.84
Avanti Feeds	854.70	887.45	3.83
Poonawalla Fin	369.00	383.00	3.79
Whirlpool India	1194.80	1239.55	3.75
Elgi Equipments	440.90	457.30	3.72
Devyani Intl.	176.85	182.95	3.45
Asahi India Glas	726.85	751.85	3.44
BHEL	217.70	225.10	3.40
KPIT Technologi.	1240.30	1282.30	3.39
Piramal Pharma	206.70	213.65	3.36
Angel One	2296.75	2372.90	3.32
Zee Entertainmen	106.15	109.65	3.30
PB Fintech.	1587.85	1640.10	3.29
Apar Inds.	5580.35	5761.70	3.25

3294.85

264.75

905.15

3193.35

256.65

877.80

**KEI Industries** 

Aditya Bir. Fas.

Anupam Rasayan

3.18

3.16

3.12

Patanjali Foods

Fine Organic

Tonloon	***		
<b>Top losers</b>	(%)		
Company Name	5/6/2025	5/7/2025	% chg
Bharat Dynamics	1527.65	1448.30	-5.19
Mazagon Dock	2968.60	2817.45	-5.09
Jindal Worldwide	63.13	60.48	-4.20
Adani Energy Sol	907.20	871.35	-3.95
Jindal Saw	227.90	219.50	-3.69
Asian Paints	2417.95	2332.65	-3.53
Radico Khaitan	2534.00	2448.05	-3.39
Bombay Burmah	1835.40	1774.30	-3.33
Suven Pharma	1118.50	1081.40	-3.32
Godfrey Phillips	8673.35	8422.65	-2.89
Krishna Institu.	663.25	644.25	-2.86
Sun TV Network	612.70	597.10	-2.55
JBM Auto	683.40	666.00	-2.55
Chambal Fert.	725.50	709.00	-2.27
Craftsman Auto	4750.75	4643.60	-2.26
Sun Pharma.Inds.	1818.75	1781.35	-2.06
Carborundum Uni.	981.75	961.65	-2.05
Natco Pharma	830.20	813.35	-2.03
PNC Infratech	254.65	250.15	-1.77
Data Pattern	2199.70	2161.95	-1.72
Rajesh Exports	187.95	184.80	-1.68
HUDCO	217.90	214.30	-1.65
GE Shipping Co	887.85	873.40	-1.63
Tejas Networks	701.65	690.35	-1.61
Capri Global	165.55	162.95	-1.57
Mahindra Life.	330.00	324.85	-1.56
P & G Hygiene	14135.20	13919.55	-1.53
Ramkrishna Forg.	594.85	585.90	-1.50
Cochin Shipyard	1481.40	1459.40	-1.49
Grindwell Norton	1571.70	1548.75	-1.46
Archean Chemical	613.65	605.40	-1.34
Ipca Labs.	1382.00	1364.05	-1.30
DCM Shriram	1012.10	999.55	-1.24
Century Plyboard	709.95	701.20	-1.23
UCO Bank	30.85	30.47	-1.23
Bajaj Auto	7942.80	7846.80	-1.21
Adani Total Gas	633.20	625.65	-1.19
Aurobindo Pharma	1211.15	1197.05	-1.16
ITC	435.65	430.65	-1.15
Grasim Inds	2729.00	2697.85	-1.14
Firstsour.Solu.	317.50	313.95	-1.12
Esab India	4650.85	4600.20	-1.09
TCI Express	658.50	651.45	-1.07
HCL Technologies	1579.10	1562.65	-1.04
Reliance Industr	1420.55	1406.00	-1.02

1851.20

4158.00

1832.80

4116.70

-0.99

-0.99

#### 52-week high

Company Name	5/7/2025	52-week High	52-week Low	Change Rs	Chg (%)
CEAT	3630.00	3642.00	2211.00	1431.00	64.72
Radico Khaitan	2448.05	2666.00	1428.95	1237.05	86.57
SRF	3053.25	3086.25	2088.55	997.70	47.77
RRPSemiconductor	954.10	954.10	21.07	933.03	4428.24
Bharti Airtel	1895.95	1916.90	1224.50	692.40	56.55
GHV Infra	476.35	476.35	19.78	456.57	2308.24
GTV Engineering	743.60	800.00	395.00	405.00	102.53
<b>Everest Organics</b>	461.30	472.40	112.50	359.90	319.91
Anupam Rasayan	905.15	911.25	600.95	310.30	51.63
Kothari Indl	305.10	305.10	4.42	300.68	6802.71
Rajas. Tube Mfg	304.45	304.45	26.00	278.45	1070.96
Mizzen Ventures	249.00	249.00	16.43	232.57	1415.52
Aster DM Health.	535.15	537.20	312.25	224.95	72.04
Marico	735.60	737.40	518.80	218.60	42.14
Mahamaya Steel	265.80	284.00	94.15	189.85	201.65
Indian Link Ch.	331.70	331.70	156.75	174.95	111.61
Osiajee Texfab	197.00	197.50	34.50	163.00	472.46
Narmada Macplast	167.75	175.90	15.53	160.37	1032.65
Colab Platforms	149.40	149.40	10.83	138.57	1279.50
Yash Trad.& Fin.	154.30	154.30	20.37	133.93	657.49
Hira Automobile	198.45	198.45	67.83	130.62	192.57
J A Finance	152.75	152.75	26.01	126.74	487.27
Swan Defence	140.70	140.70	35.99	104.71	290.94
Bio Green Papers	116.13	116.13	11.78	104.35	885.82
RDB Real Estate	91.50	91.50	12.90	78.60	609.30
Euro Asia Export	80.53	80.53	13.00	67.53	519.46
RSC Internl.	63.30	63.30	7.40	55.90	755.41
Vega Jewellers	57.58	57.58	1.78	55.80	3134.83
Cura Tech.	77.30	77.30	23.24	54.06	232.62
Tavernier Res.	67.50	73.59	30.75	42.84	139.32
Jaihind Synth	59.81	66.00	23.51	42.49	180.73
V R Woodart	46.97	46.97	4.56	42.41	930.04
	_				

#### 52-week low

Company Name	5/7/2025	52-week High	52-week Low	Change Rs	Chg (%)
Revathi Equip	865.00	3656.35	837.00	-2819.35	-77.11
Gensol Engineer.	63.63	1125.75	63.63	-1062.12	-94.35
Astec Lifescienc	640.25	1487.65	638.05	-849.60	-57.11
Vedant Fashions	740.80	1511.20	725.00	-786.20	-52.02
Selan Expl. Tech	506.35	1099.80	490.00	-609.80	-55.45
Quick Heal Tech	277.00	825.90	252.00	-573.90	-69.49
Suraj Estate	283.20	842.00	275.05	-566.95	-67.33

52-week High-low Data for all BSE listed company Rest of all table are BSE-500 and Moving average data as of the previous trading day, Spunge: Capitalmarket

#### Think Equity Think Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund Invest In Pioneers Of **Next Generation Motilal Oswal Midcap Fund** Follows unique stock Identifies Midcaps that have Invests in Leaders of selection process; QGLP# high growth potential respective Sectors motilaloswalmf.com Q) or consult your financial advisor #QGLP: Quality, Growth, Longevity. (Reasonable) Price

Risk-p-meter of Scheme

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Motital Oswal Midcap Fund (Formerly known as Motital

Oswal Midcap 30 Fund) (An open ended equity scheme

· investment in equity and equity related instruments in

Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking\*

competitive advantages and potential for growth

about whether the product is suitable for them.

predominantly investing in mid cop stocks).

. Long-term copital growth

#### corporate gallery

#### Allen Indore's Riddhesh will represent India in IPhO final



Once again Allen Career Institute students have been selected in the international Olympiad to bring pride to the country. Allen Career Institute Indore's Center Head Kamal Sharma said that the Indian team for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) has been announced. Allen Indore's student Riddhesh is also included in the four-member team. Cake was cut at Allen Indore and Riddhesh was wished good luck for the IPhO final to be held in France between 18 and 24 July.

Allen's Director Dr. Brajesh Maheshwari said that four students are from Allen in the five-member Indian team announced for the 55th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) to be held in France. It includes Aagam Shah, Kanishk Jain, Rajit Gupta and Riddhesh Bendale. All of them are Allen's classroom students.

This exam is conducted in four stages. In the first stage, National Standard Examination in Physics (NSEP), 135 Allen students were selected. Then in the second stage, Indian National Physics Olympiad (INPhO), 13 Allen students were selected. After the third stage, Orientation cum Selection Camp (OCSC), 4 Allen students were selected to represent India. The fourth stage is IPhO Final, in which teams from more than 80 countries will participate.

#### 13 Employees Of WR Felicitated With General Manager's Safety Award



Ashok Kumar Misra - General Manager of Western Railway felicitated 13 employees at WR Headquarters, Mumbai for their outstanding work which resulted in safe train working. These employees were awarded in appreciation of their alertness in duty and contribution towards averting untoward incidents, during the month of February and March, 2025 and thereby ensuring the safety of train operations. Out of the 13 employees, 05 are from Vadodara Division, 03 are from Mumbai Central Division, 01 is from Ahmedabad Division, while 02 each are from Bhavnagar and Ratlam Divisions. According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek, Misra appreciated the alertness of the staff who were being awarded and mentioned that they are exemplary role models for everyone to emulate. The employees showed their great zeal and commitment towards safe running of trains in various areas of safety such as detection of rail & track fracture, brake binding or dangling objects in passing train, application of emergency brakes to save untoward incidents, save human life, extinguishing the smoke detected in coaches, etc.

#### WR records 2nd Best Ever Monthly Performance in last five years



free, comfortable travel & better services to all bonafide passengers over Western Railway, intensive ticket checking drives are being carried out continuously over Mumbai suburban

In order to

ensure

hassle-

local services, Mail/Express as well as passenger trains & holiday special trains so as to curb the menace of ticket-less/irregular passengers. The highly motivated ticket checking team under the supervision of senior commercial officers of Western Railway organized several ticket checking drives in the month of April 2025, thereby recovering an amount to the tune of Rs. 21.89 Crore, which also



Rs. 6 Cr from Mumbai Suburban section. Accordina to a press release issued by Chief Pubic Relations Officer of Western Railway, Vineet Abhishek during the month of April 2025, an amount of Rs. ₹21.89 crore was recovered

includes

through detection of 3.10 lakh ticketless/irregular passengers, including unbooked luggage cases. Also, in the month of April, WR realized fines amounting to Rs. 6 crore through detection of more than 1 Lakh cases over Mumbai Suburban section. To prevent unauthorized entry in AC local trains, frequent surprise ticket checking drives are also being carried out. As a result of these drives more than 6,000 unauthorized passengers have been penalized in April 2025 and Rs.20.24 lakhs collected in fines.

Western Railway appeals to the general public to travel with proper and valid tickets.

#### whispersinthecorridors

#### → Leadership dispute in Mahagathbandhan?



The Mahagathbandhan alliance, preparing for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, has ramped up its coordination. In a notable development, leaders from all alliance partners—including the Congress, RJD, and Left parties—are working together more visibly and actively than before. For the first time, district-level leaders from these alliance parties are being brought under one platform to emphasize the importance of unity and coordination. Despite these moves toward unity, a major sticking point remains unresolved: the question of projecting RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as the alliance's chief ministerial face. The Congress party's reluctance to endorse Tejashwi for the top post has stalled a unanimous announcement on leadership. Nevertheless, RJD strategists are actively engaging with senior Congress leaders in Delhi in an attempt to break the deadlock.

#### M K Mohapatra appointed as Ambassador to Romania

Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, presently Ambassador of India to Guatemala, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania. He is a 2000 batch IFS officer.



#### → Kaushal Raj Sharma likely to be PS to Delhi CM

If sources are to be believed Kaushal Raj Sharma could be PS of Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. Sources said that Sharma has been transferred from UP to Delhi segment of AGMUT cadre for a period of three years with a purpose. He is a 2006 batch IAS officer.

#### → Anish Prasad appointed as IG, BSF

Anish Prasad presently working as Executive Director, Vigilance, Railway Board, has been appointed as IG, BSF on lateral deputation basis up to his remaining deputation tenure i.e. June 21, 2026. He is a 2003 batch IPS officer of Tripura

#### → Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy appointed as Director (HR), AWEIL

Sanjaya Kumar Satapathy, Chief Human Resource Officer, Tata Steel Technical Services Ltd, has been appointed as Director (Human Resources), Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited. **Dr Suresh Mehrotra** 



#### IAS Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna Guiding Lohardaga's Youth in the Right Direction with Free Coaching, Sports, and Digital Literacy Program (Jharkhand)

IAS Dr Waghmare Prasad Krishna is a 2011 Batch Officer of Jharkhand cadre and is currently posted as Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, Jharkhand-a Naxal affected District. His vision for the district is to steer the youth in the right



direction and prepare them for a brighter future. "We want to push the district's youth towards meaningful career paths so that they don't face crises or take the wrong path" he says. Under Dr. Krishna's leadership, a multifaceted development approach is being implemented for youth, where all key aspects of development are being taken care of—like sports, education, digital literacy, and more. What makes these efforts truly stand out is that they are being provided entirely free of cost. "All of this is completely free and exclusively for students who cannot afford such facilities," Dr. Krishna emphasized. In the field of sports, training centers have been established across the district. "We have also engaged professional coaches for cricket, football, wrestling, and other sports," he adds. For academically inclined students, aspiring to become doctors or engineers, free NEET and JEE coaching has been started. Further recognising the need to provide guiet, stable and focused environment for the youth, a library has been established in the district dedicated to the preparation of competitive exams. To personally motivate them, Dr. Krishna explained the initiative taken by all the officers in the district: "All of our officers here, who have cleared these exams, take out time to meet the students and guide them." Additionally to enhance digital literacy ,a computer training program has been started equipping individuals with much needed skills in today's world. "This is a Central Government prescribed course for a period of three months, somewhat like a foundation course " he explained. Through these simple yet powerful initiatives, Dr. Krishna is guiding the youth toward a brighter, more fulfilling future—one that is set to leave a lasting

#### Why appointment of new Chairperson, UPSC delayed?

It has been more than one year! The Government of India is yet to fill the vacancy of Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The senior-most Member is generally appointed the Chairperson. If sources are to be believed, some lobby is reportedly active in stalling the order. Which lobby is interested?

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JUSTICE IS SERVED. **INDIAN ARMY** 



Long live Mother India! (Bharat Mata Ki Jai).

**Through Operation** Sindoor, India has used its 'right to respond' to the attack on its soil, and the armed forces scripted history by acting with precision, precaution and compassion to destroy the camps used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK.

> Rainath Singh, **Defence Minister**



The world must show zero tolerance

terrorism. S Jaishankar, **External Affairs Minister** 



Proud of our armed forces. Operation Sindoor is Bharat's

response to the brutal killing of our innocent brothers in Pahalgam. **Amit Shah**, Home Minister



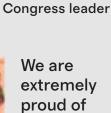
We are extremely proud of our Indian Armed Forces who

have struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. We applaud their resolute resolve and courage. Since the day of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Congress has categorically stood with the armed forces and the government to take any decisive action against cross-border terror.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress boss



Proud of our Armed Forces. Jai Hind! Rahul Gandhi,



our Army. Our brave soldiers

protect our freedom and integrity. May God protect them and give them immense courage to face challenges with patience and bravery. Jai Hind.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader



The nation stands united against terrorism. We are

extremely proud of the country's defence forces. The courage and valour of the Indian Army made the whole country proud. We all have unwavering faith and pride in the leadership of PM Modi. Jai Hind.

Nitish Kumar,

**Bihar Chief Minister** 

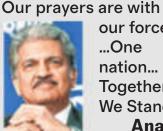


unity. Boundless in strength. India's shield is

Fearless in

her people. There's no room for terrorism in this world. We're ONE TEAM! Jai Hind.

Sachin Tendulkar, Cricketer



our forces ...One nation... Together We Stand. Anand Mahindra, Industrialist

'JEM' OF AN ATTACK | Jaish chief acknowledges Indian missile strike on its headquarters in Bahawalpur also killed four aides

### MASOOD AZHAR: 10 OF MY FAMILY DEAD

M Zulgernain LAHORE / NEW DELHI

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar acknowledged

Wednesday that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur.

A statement attributed to Azhar said those killed in the attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur included the JeM chief's elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family.

The statement further mentioned that the attack also claimed the lives of one of Azhar's close associates and his mother, along with two other close companions. "This act of brutality has broken all boundaries. There should be no expectation of mercy now," it added.

Bahawalpur became the hub of the JeM after the release of Azhar in exchange for the hijacked passengers of IC-814 in 1999. In May 2019, the UN designated Azhar a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.

The elusive Azhar, who has not been seen in public since April 2019, is believed to be hiding in a "safe place" in Bahawalpur.

The group has been involv-

TERRORIST CAMP DESTROYED : KOTLI ABBAS





JeM chief's elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and 5 children from his extended family died in the attack

ed terror attacks in India, including the Parliament attack in 2001, the attack on the Jammu and Kashmir assembly in 2000, the strike on the IAF base in Pathankot in 2016 and the Pulwama suicide bombing in 2019. —PTI

#### **WHAT'S IN PAK ARSENAL?**

Pakistan possesses a wide range of missiles capable of striking targets at various distances. FPJ takes a close look...

Shaheen Short-Range Missiles: Shaheen-I: Range of 750 km, Shaheen-IA: 900 km and Shaheen-I A: 1000 km. Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles: Shaheen-II: 2,500 km and Shaheen-III: 2,750 km

Ghauri-I has a range of 1,500 km, while Ghauri-II can strike targets between 2,000-2,300 km.

Ababeel missile is part of the arsenal, with a range of 2,200 km and capable of delivering multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles.

Other powerful systems include the Hatf missile series (Hatf I to VIII),

**BLOW BY BLOW** 

cruise missiles, anti-tank guided missiles, and tactical rockets such as Fatah-I, II, III.

Short-range ballistic missiles like Nasr. Ghaznavi. and Abdali also bolster Pakistan's battlefield capabilities. Moreover, the military possesses anti-radiation missiles sourced from China and Brazil.

**Armored Corps: Tanks** from Pakistan, China & Ukraine

Pak's Armored Corps is equipped with advanced tanks developed through local and international collaborations:

VT4 MBT: A third-generation tank made in China. Al-Khalid: Co-produced by Pakistan and China, equipped with a smoothbore gun.

Al-Zarrar: Upgraded version of Chinese Type 59

**4** in

Pakistan

and **5** in

Pakistan-

occupied

Kashmir

### **NOTORIOUS NINE**

Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur (Punjab, Pakistan): Headquarters of JeM, this facility played a central role in planning terror attacks, including the Pulwama bombing on February 14, 2019. The attackers received training at this camp.

Markaz Taiba, Muridke (Sheikhupura, Punjab, Pakistan): Founded in 2000, this is the main training and ideological centre of LeT, located in Nangal Sahdan, Muridke.

Sarjal / Tehra Kalan Facility (Narowal, Punjab, Pakistan): A primary JeM launch site for infiltrating terrorists into Jammu & Kashmir. Hidden within a Primary Health Centre in Tehra Kalan village, it was designed to conceal its true

Mehmoona Joya Facility, Sialkot (Punjab, Pakistan): Operated by Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), this site is near Kotli Bhutta Government Hospital in Head Marala, Sialkot. Supported by Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), the facility was covertly established within government premises along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC).

Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala (Bhimber, PoK) A strategic LeT facility used for infiltration into the Poonch-Rajouri-Reasi sector. Located on the outskirts of Barnala on Kote Jamel Road, it lies just 500 metres from Barnala town.

Markaz Abbas, Kotli (PoK) A JeM centre named after Hazrat Abbas Bin Abdul Mutalib, situated in Mohalla Roli near the Bypass Road in Kotli. It is located approximately 2 km southeast of the Kotli military camp.

Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli District (PoK) An old HM camp located 2.5 km from Mahuli Puli on the Mirpur-Kotli Road. Tucked away in the hills and accessible only by a dirt track, it includes barracks, arms storage rooms, offices, and residential quarters for terrorists.

Shawai Nallah Camp, Muzaffarabad (PoK) A key LeT facility used for the recruitment, registration, and training of militants. It has been active since the early 2000s.

Markaz Syedna Bilal, Muzaffarabad (PoK) The main JeM centre in PoK, located opposite the Red Fort in Muzaffarabad. This facility serves as a transit camp for JeM terrorists before their launch into Jammu & Kashmir. At any given time, 50-100 cadres reside in this facility. India has avenged the Pahalgam massacre.



#### **Pakistan PM: Our Army** was ready for **Indian attack**



**Sajjad Hussain** ISLAMABAD / NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Shehbaz **Sharif** said the Pakistan Army was ready for an Indian attack, lauding his forces for the "swift response".

Addressing a session of Parliament amid escalated tensions between the two countries, Shehbaz claimed the Pakistan armed forces destroyed 5 Indian jets. He, however, did not provide any evidence in support of his claim. "Last night, 80 Indian aircraft were part of the offensive, but Pakistan's air defence effectively neutralised the threat," he claimed.

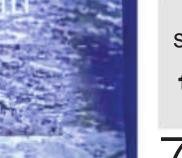
The PM lauded the Pakistan Air Force and its chief "for the swift response", saying the armed forces had prior intelligence about India's plans. "We shot down 5 enemy jets, including Rafales, and also downed two Indian drones," he claimed, without providing any evidence to back up his claims.

Meanwhile, Pak Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Islamabad is "trying to avoid" a full-fledged war, hours after India carried out a military strike.

#### Pak blocks 16 **Indian channels**

Islamabad: Pakistani authorities have blocked 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites in view of the prevailing regional situation. The move is part of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's continued efforts to ensure the responsible use of digital platforms, officials said. The action of blocking 16 Indian YouTube news channels, 31 YouTube links, and 32 websites "has been taken in the light of the prevailing regional situation to safeguard national security and protect Pakistan's digital ecosystem," the officials said.

#### Operation unleashed Sindoor lasted 25



minutes from 1.05 am to 1.30 am on May 7

60 terrorists were killed injured

24 missiles

terror camps were hit

innocents were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack after which India responded

### 'Civilians targeted' Unidentified aircraft crashes

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said Pakistan has "gone out of its way" to target civilian population in the Union Territory following India's missile strikes targeting terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country.

"As reports are coming, Pakistan has gone out of its way to target the civilian population. So I have taken stock of the situation and we are dealing with the situation as it develops," he said after chairing a review meeting.

The CM said India had gone out of its way to ensure no military and civilian targets were hit in the strikes. "After the inhumane and barbaric murder of 26 innocents in Pahalgam, it was expected India would use its right to respond in an appropriate and proportionate way. The government and defence forces have gone out of the way to ensure no military and civilian



targets were hit in Pakistan. They have only hit terror

bases," he added. Earlier, Abdullah assessed the preparedness of the government along the LoC and border areas. "Held a meeting to assess the security and preparedness along the border/ LoC areas. Emphasis laid on safeguarding civilian lives, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring swift response to emerging challenges."

### 9 others injured in explosion

**Rajesh Moudgil** CHANDIGARH

One farm labourer was killed

while 9 villagers were injured when an unidentified aircraft crashed and caught fire in Punjab's Bathinda in early on Wednesday after Indian armed forces carried out Opeation Sindoor.

The incident occurred around 2am in a harvested wheat field in village Akalian Kalan, 500 metres from the residential area and 20 km from the district headquarter. Incidentally, the crash site is about 20 km from Bhisiana Air Force station in Bathinda.

Eyewitnesses said they saw an aircraft flying unusually low which moments later crashed into the fields.

#### in Punjab's Bathinda; 1 killed Verify before posting, China told The Indian Embassy in Beijing has cautioned China's

state-run tabloid 'Global Times' to verify messages before posting them on social media on Indian military strikes targeting Pakistan's terror infrastructure on Wednesday. "Dear Global Times News, we would recommend you verify your facts and cross-examine your sources before pushing out this kind of disinformation," the Indian Embassy said on X. "Several pro-Pakistan handles are spreading baseless claims in the context of Operation Sindoor, attempting to mislead the public," it said.

Even though people rushed to the spot, the aircraft which had caught fire, exploded moments later killing Govind, a farm labourer, a native of Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district, and injuring at least 9 others. The villagers said shrapnel hit the labourers.

According to unconfirmed reports, they were injured when they tried to go near the burning aircraft and a few of them, including Govind, tried to make videos on phones and

and two of HuM. By bringing

forth the two officers India

would not let Pakistan sow

any seeds of discord within

also demonstrated that it

the aircraft exploded. The villagers said the injured were rushed to the health centre where Govind was declared brought dead, while, the injured were referred to civil hospital, Bathinda. One injured was said to have been shifted to AIIMS, Bathinda.

The authorities cordoned

off the site and initiated a probe. There was no information about the identity or origin of the aircraft, its pilot or the cause of the incident.

#### Arunachal and Manipur. In Delhi, PCR vans and fire engines were stationed at multiple locations while there was a heavy deployment of security men and civil defence volunteers. Blaring sirens,

**Agencies** 

emergencies, and search and

rescue operations were car-

ried out in states and UTs as

The exercise, hours after

Operation Sindoor targeted

terrorist infrastructure in

Pakistan and PoK, covered

Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajas-

than, UP, Gujarat, Mahara-

shtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu,

Kerala, Andhra, Telangana,

Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand,

West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram,

Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim,

residents rushing to safety,

injured people being carried away on stretchers — these

were the scenes played out at

55 locations in the capital.

'Operation Abhyaas'.

NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented sight in the evening, a 15-minute power blackout was also observed in Lutyens' Delhi. Close to 300 'civil defence districts' in the country with sensitive installations like nuclear plants, military bases, refineries and hydroelectric dams were covered by mock drills on air raid warning

In Punjab, mock drills were



Air raid sirens to

blackouts, states

The drill covered 300 'civil defence dists' with sensitive installations like Nplants, army bases, refineries and dams

conducted in Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Bathinda, Gurdaspur, Patiala, Pathankot, Barnala and Mohali.

Six Bihar cities saw the drill. Electric supply was suspended for 10 minutes in Patna, Purnea, Katihar, Begusarai, Araria and Kishangani after a warning siren blared. Officials held security drills at key installations in Tamil Nadu, the Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam

and the Chennai port. Rehearsals were conducted in Telangana's Hyderabad to test emergency preparedness. Evacuation drills were also conducted by private schools in Kolkata. Assam Police's Home Guard and Civil Defence wing led the drill in association with fire services, health dept, disaster manage-

—Inputs from Dheeraj Kumar

### Nari Shakti

### Now, our women 'pin them down'

**Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar NEW DELHI** 

wo highly decorated women officers of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army were on Tuesday given the all-important role of briefing officers by the Centre for explaining the details of Operation Sindoor to the media.

**After Foreign Secretary** Singh (L) and who through an audio-video presentation Vikram Misri briefed the media, the floor was handed showed how the infrastrucover to Colonel Sophia ture of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Jaish-e-Mohammad Qureshi (R) and Wing



and the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was dismantled through the strikes on nine of their locations in Pakistan and PoK. Of the sites targeted, four

The officers picked for the briefing have an exemplary record. Colonel Sophia Qureshi is a decorated officer of the Corps of Signals and the first woman Army officer to lead a contingent in a multinational military exercise.

its communities.

Wing Commander Vyomika Singh is a heliwere of JeM, three of LeTeepressfer pilot who led rescue operated Chetak and Cheetah helicopters in India's most challenging terrains in J&K and the North East. The two officers provided details of the nine targets and the reasons these were picked. The presentation showed how the missile strikes carried out with aircrafts and drones hit the terror infrastructure inside

Pakistan and PoK.

missions. Since receiving

permanent commission in

the flying branch of Indian

Air Force in 2019, she has

sirens, civilian training for a "hostile attack" and cleaning of bunkers and trenches.

ment, BSNL and DIPR.

#### ATTACK AFTERMATH | Terrorists will think 100 times before acting, say victims' relatives'

### EK CHUTKI SINDOOR: KIN ELATED

ahalgam terror attack victim Lt Vinay Narwal's father, Rajesh Narwal, on Wednesday hailed India's response and said the Modi government has sent a strong message and now the perpetrators of the April 22 attack "will think 100 times" before repeating such attacks in the future.

"When this (Pahalgam) incident happened, even then you (media) came to my home and asked what I expected from the government. My answer was that I had faith in our government. And today, the government has justified that trust," Rajesh Narwal told reporters at his residence in Karnal.

"I had said that such a thing (retaliatory strikes) has to be done so that no one dares to do such a cowardly act again...the strikes carried out on the terror targets (in Pak and PoK) will resonate in their minds forever.

Responding to a question on the mission's name, Rajesh said, "This operation has been aptly named Operation Sindoor." Earlier, when Vinay Narwal's mother Asha said, "It is a very good thing that (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi has avenged the (Pahalgam) attack. I am with (the government), people are with them, and our entire family is with them".



#### **UTTAR PRADESH**

Shubham Dwivedi's wife Ashanya thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and armed forces for taking "revenge" on her husband's death.

"I want to thank Prime Minister Modi, ministers and chiefs of armed forces, including Air Force and Army Chief General, for taking revenge for my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack," said Ashanya.

"Me and my entire family had enough trust in PM Modi and our armed forces, and the way they carried out strikes at terrorist infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has kept our trust alive," she added.

#### "This is the real tribute to my husband (Shubham) and those who were also killed in the Pahalgam attack.

Wherever my husband is, he

will be at peace today," she She expressed happiness over choosing the name and said it has "instilled faith among us that he stood with

**BENGALURU** 

The family of Bharath Bhushan, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said the govand that they stay in support of them.

Bushan's

Channaveerappa said, "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step. Government has done a good job and they have also taken the support of many countries."

#### JAMMU & KASHMIR

Father of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the ponywalla who sacrificed his life while protecting the tourists during the Pahlalgam terror attack, said on Wednesday that the military strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have avenged his son's killing.

Shah's family expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the armed forces for the retaliatory action.

#### **KOCHI**

Arathy, daughter of N Ramachandran who was gunned down by terrorists in Kashmir's Pahalgam, on Wednesday welcomed Indian Army's "Operation Sindoor" and expressed hope that it would bring some relief to the families of those killed in front of them.

The "Operation Sindoor" seems to be a reply from the women of India through the "Sindoor" for the operation ernment has done a good job army and the government, she said.

> She also extended a "big father salute" to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, Indian Army and the Union government.

#### **KOLKATA**

Sarbari, wife of deceased Samir Guha said peace will not prevail till countries supporting terrorism are wiped out of the map. "I will not get back what I have lost. But this attack at least brought some relief. I thank the central government for this mission. I am sure the government will plan further steps to curb this menace," she said.

Sohini, wife of deceased Bitan Adhikari said no other woman should lose their 'sindoor' like the way she lost. "I still believe that my late husband can see and hear us. I am sure his departed soul will be satisfied with this attack. I am grateful to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

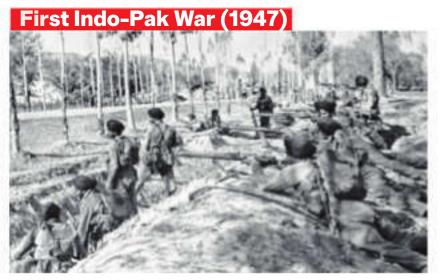
#### **PATNA**

Arvind Kumar Mishra uncle of IB officer Manish Ranjan who was killed in the Pahalgam attack said, "Sacrifices of martyrs did not go in vain. We are thankful to Prime Minister. Indian armed forces have taken a right action against Pakistan. I am proud of our armed forces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and also of the opposition parties for extending full support to the government."

-Inputs from Rajesh Moudgil, Biswajeet Banerjee, Aritra Singha, Dheeraj Kumar

### **MILITARY THEATRE**

**'Operation Sindoor'** is the latest among military conflicts between India and Pakistan



 Also known as the First Kashmir War, it broke out over the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir after Independence. It began in October 1947 when Pakistan-backed tribal militias invaded the princely state. After the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union by Maharaja Hari Singh, India sent troops to defend the region, leading to full-scale conflict.

It continued till January 1949 when a UN-mediated ceasefire was implemented, resulting in the division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control.

#### Second Indo-Pak War (1965)



It broke out on August 5, 1965 over Kashmir when thousands of Pakistani soldiers, disguised as local insurgents, infiltrated the Indian territory across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

The covert operation, codenamed 'Operation Gibraltar' aimed to destabilise the region and provoke local uprisings. India responded by launching a military counter-offensive, which escalated into full-scale combat along the international border.

• The war continued until September 23, 1965, when both sides agreed to a ceasefire, brokered by the erswhile Soviet Union and the US.

#### Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)

It was triggered by Pakistani military's crackdown on East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and its demand for independence. India entered the war in support of the Bangladeshi independence movement.

After intense fighting on both the eastern and western fronts, Pakistani forces surrendered on December 16, 1971.

The war led to the creation of Bangladesh as an

#### independent nation.



• The high-altitude conflict was fought from May to July after Pakistani troops and terrorists occupied peaks in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

• India launched 'Operation Vijay' to reclaim the territory, supported by the Air Force's 'Operation Safed

The war ended on July 26 with India regaining control, a day now marked as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.

#### Uri Attack (2016)

 It followed a terrorist attack on an Army base in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir, on September 18, 2016, in which 19 soldiers were killed.

• India conducted a surgical strike on September 28-29 across the LoC. The Indian Army targeted multiple terrorist launch pads in PoK, claiming significant casualties among terrorists preparing to infiltrate.

#### Pulwama attack (2019)



IAF carried out airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on

It was in response to the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel. Using fighter jets, India targeted the camp deep inside Pakistani territory, mark-

ing the first such airstrike since the 1971 war.

#### **PRECISION STRIKE DECODED**



It is designed to hit exact targets so as to cause minimal collateral damage to surrounding areas.

2 Involves advanced guidance tech, surveillance and targeting capabilities to strike targets with high accuracy, often from long distances.

GPS, laser, radar or infrared guidance used to attack within a few meters of target. Integrates information received from drones, satellites or radar to identify targets and plan attacks.

Can be launched from a safe distance, reducing risk to the operator

6 Precision-guided munitions, including laser-designated missiles and satellite-quided glide bombs, were used. Missiles were launched from air and land platforms

Operation Sindoor involved loitering

munition. It is a type of precision weapon that hovers over a target area to locate and strike targets, often autonomously or under human control

#### **Weapons used in Op Sindoor**

India utilised a suite of high-precision, long-range strike weapons in the operation. Among these were the SCALP cruise missile, the HAMMER precision bomb, and loitering munitions.

#### (Storm Shadow) The SCALP missile, also known as Storm Shadow, is a long-range, air-launched

cruise missile

with a range

exceeding

metres and

designed for

deep-strike

capabilities.

250 kilo-

**SCALP** 

**Munition Extended Range) HAMMER** smart bomb was used to

**HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular** 

hardened infra such as reinforced bunkers and multi-storey buildings used as training and logistical centres by LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The HAMMER is a precision-guided, standoff munition capable of striking targets at ranges of 50-70 km,

depending on launch altitude.

#### **Loitering Munitions:**



Also known as "kamikaze drones," loitering munitions were deployed for surveillance, target acquisition, and terminal strike roles. These drone

systems hover over target areas and either autonomously or under remote control identify and eliminate threats.

### States 'wise': On your mark...

**TEAM FPJ** 

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a ▲ high alert across all 75 districts of the state. DGP Prashant Kumar said that all police forces in the state have been instructed to remain fully armed and vigilant. "UP Police is on maximum alert. All units must be prepared to tackle any situation to ensure public safety. Security around key installations has been tightened, and coordination with defense agencies has

been strengthened. Intelligence networks, including social media surveillance, have been activated to monitor any potential threats. All district control rooms have been instructed to operate in high-alert mode. In view of the evolving security scenario, constant vigilance along the India-Nepal border has also been mandated to prevent any crossborder infiltration or suspicious movement.

In cities such as Lucknow and Kanpur, police have

intensified vehicle checks and deployed additional security personnel in sensitive areas.

The high alert, akin to a red alert in terms of protocol, is a warning system used during serious threats or emergencies. Citizens are advised to remain alert and follow official instructions to ensure safety and order.

#### Raj shuts two airports

Flight operations from Jodhpur and Jaisalmer airports have been stopped till May 10, while flight operations from Bikaner airport also remain closed on Wednesday. North-Western Railway has cancelled the leave of all its officers and employees and the state government has also directed all the police personnel to report to their headquarters.

Schools in the bordering districts have been shut.

After the air strike, some places witnessed outage throughout the night on Wednesday. Various villages in the border area remained in dark.



BJP members hail 'Operation Sindoor', in Pune

#### **Schools shut in Punjab**

Schools in several parts of border areas of Punjab, including Pathankot, Amritsar, Fazilka and Ferozepur districts, were closed till the next orders for the students safety after Indian armed forces carried out `Op Sindoor' targeting terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK). Meanwhile, even though some villagers had begun to leave their native villages located on the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka in the past few days, their numbers swelled on Wednesday.

- Inputs from Biswajeet Banerjee, Manish Godha

### Together, we can

ven as the country is celebrating India's retaliatory actions, state governments especially the Opposition-ruled states united in the time of crisis. Extending his full support on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said. "Tamil Nadu stands with the Indian Army against terrorism. With our Army, for our nation. Tamil Nadu stands resolute," he posted on X.

Leader of Opposition and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami commended the Indian Armed Forces "for their preexecution

#OperationSindoor, targeting terror camps in Pakistan and PoJK in response to the Pahalgam attack." In a message on X, he said, "Under the vigilant leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi Avl, justice has been delivered. This decisive action underscores our nation's unwavering commitment to eradicating terrorism and safeguarding our citizens."

Backing the operation,

Tamil film superstar

Rajinikanth in his social media

post said, "The fighter's fight

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said her government will cooperate completely

with the central government. "I had discussions with the central government and with all the departments. Due to privacy, I will not disclose anything. At this moment of crisis, we should all be together. There should not be any differences as we all love our country. People should not spread unnecessary news to

begins...No stopping until the

mission is accomplished!" He

told the Prime Minister, "the

entire NATION is with you."

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar heaped praise on PM Modi following Operation Sindoor, and said that all people had irrefutable faith in leadership of the PM and was also proud of him. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said India, Indians, and Indian armed forces have never tolerated terrorism and separatism in any form and

would also never accept it. Union Minister and LJP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan saluted the courage, valour, and sentiments of Indian armed forces.

-Inputs by N Chitra, Aritra create panic," added Mamata pressjosingha, Dheeraj Kumar

## Panic buying in Amritsar

Incertainty over the Uretaliation by Pakistan and fake advisories after India's Op Sindoor, led to panic buying among the residents of border city of Amritsar on Wednesday.

A number of people could be seen visiting bazaars in the morning – after the news pertaining to the "Op Sindoor" spread with time - to stock grocery items and other utility items and queues of vehicles were seen at petrol stations in most parts of the city in the morning.

There were reports of panic buying of ration, eatables, medicines and fuels in several parts of the city, even as some of shopkeepers also claimed they were already out was a let-up in panic buying.

of stocks of several items by afternoon. The orders to shut schools in the border areas by the government also fuelled people's fears, leading to panic buying. However, even as fake advisories in the regard were also seen on social platforms asking people to stock up on cash, fuel, medicines and emergency supplies, there

-Rajesh Moudgil

February 26, 2019.

#### CBI director Sood gets 1-yr extension

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

The Centre on Wednesday extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood by one

Sood took over as the CBI director on May 25, 2023 for a two-year term.

The decision to extend his tenure was taken in a meeting of the selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and comprising Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday, officials said.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), based on the recommendations of the selection committee, approved Sood's extension for a period of one year beyond May 24.

Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre.

#### **OPERATION SANKALP** | Gunfight in forests of Chhattisgarh near Telangana after inputs about presence of senior cadres

### 22 Naxals killed in Bijapur

**BIJAPUR** 

Twenty-two Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces on Wednesday in the forests of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district bordering Telangana during Operation Sankalp, a massive counterinsurgency initiative, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out in the morning in the Karregutta hills forest along the interstate border, he said.

"So far, bodies of 22 Naxalites have been recovered and a search operation was underway in the area", he said, adding that the identity of the slain cadres was yet to be established. With the latest encounter, the toll of Naxalites gunned down under Operation Sankalp since April 21 has climbed to 26.

Operation Sankalp, one of



So far, bodies of 22 Naxalites have been recovered and a search op was underway, a senior police official said

the biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in the Bastar region, involves around 24,000 security personnel from different units including District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force (STF), all units of state police, Central reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA.

The operation

each, were gunned down on the Karregutta hills, leading to the recovery of a huge cache of weapons, explosives, and other material.

On May 5, a woman Naxalite was killed in a gunfight with security forces in the area. The area surrounded by dense forests and lined by hills is believed to be the base of the Maoist battalion no. 1, the police official said.

"The inputs suggest several senior-level Maoist cadres have either been killed or seriously injured during this operation, but their colleagues managed to drag them inside the forest," he said.

The official said hundreds of Naxal hideouts and bunkers have been destroyed so far during the operation, and a huge cache of explosive material, detonators, medicines, and other items was seized.

### Panel confirms allegations against Justice Varma, CJI seeks his reply

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

The Supreme Courtappointed panel has confirmed the cash discovery allegations against Allahabad Court's Justice Yashwant Varma in its inquiry report, sources have said. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is also learnt to have nudged the judge to step down in view of the critical findings in the report.

The CJI has forwarded the panel's report to Justice Varma and sought his reply following the principle of natural justice, the sources said.

The report was submitted to the CJI by the threemember panel comprising Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka



High Court. It was finalised on May 3.

The panel analysed evidence and recorded the statements of over 50 people, including Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and Delhi Fire Service chief who were among the first responders to the fire incident at Justice Varma's Lutyens Delhi residence at around 11.35 pm on March 14. He was Delhi High Court judge at the time.

Sources said the panel found clear evidence to confirm the allegations that a huge stash of cash was found in the storeroom of Justice Varma's official residence at the time of fire incident. The allegation was repeatedly denied by the judge in his reply to the Delhi High Court chief justice.

The sources said CJI Khanna, who is set to superannuate on May 13, is likely to take the issue to its logical conclusion and has informally discussed the findings of the report with senior collegium members of the apex court.

The controversy was raised following a news report in the cash discovery row and led to several steps, including a preliminary inquiry by Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya, judicial work being taken away from Justice Varma in the Delhi High Court, and later his transfer to the Allahabad High Court sans judicial work.

#### HC says unnatural sex with wife sans consent is offence

**FPJ News Service** 

The Allahabad High Court recently ruled that non-consensual unnatural sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, even if she is above 18 years of age, is a punishable offence, according to Bar and tation of sex for the majority

Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal said that sex other than penile-vaginal intercourse is not a natural orientation of sex for the majority of women and the same cannot be done by the husband without the consent of the

Hence, the judge held that even though the act may not fall under the definition rape

in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the offence is punishable under Section 377, which criminalises

unnatural sexual offences. "Given the above analysis, it is clear that carnal sex, other than penile-vaginal intercourse is not a natural orienof women, therefore the same cannot be done by the husband, even with his wife without her consent. Therefore, this court holds that unnatural sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife without her consent, even if she is above 18 years, would be punishable u/s 377 IPC though that may not be rape as per Section 375 IPC," the single-

iudge stated.

#### Sambhal court notice to RaGa over remarks

PTI SAMBHAL (UP)

A local court on Wednesday issued a notice and sought the response of leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his alleged utter-

state itself". Additional district judge (ADJ-II) Aarti Faujdar issued the notice on a complaint filed by Hindu Shakti Dal national president Simran

ances on "fighting the Indian

On January 15, Gandhi alleged BJP and RSS had "captured every institution of country," and added, "We are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian state itself."

### Modi: Indian astronauts' footprints will be on Moon

**NEW DELHI** 

the Moon.

Modi said for India, space was about exploration as well as empowerment, and listed out plans to set up the Bharatiya Anatariksh Station

flight mission, 'Gaganyaan', aspirations," Modi said.

#### **Heat wave likely** in eastern India from today

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

A fresh spell of heat wave may commence over eastern India from Thursday, while rainfall and thunderstorm activity will continue over the northwest and central parts of the country for the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. The weather department warned of heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, over northeast until May 11. It also said heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and squally winds will likely continue

over Gujarat until Thursday.

tion of warheads was ensured, so that there will

She said all targets were "neutralised with

clinical efficiency", and the results "reiterate the

professionalism" of the Indian armed forces, in

the planning and execution of their operations,

restraint in its response. However, it must be

said that the Indian armed forces are fully prepared to respond to Pakistani misadventures, if

any that will escalate this situation. Jai Hind,"

the IAF officer said, as the briefing came to an

The PM had given full operational freedom

The PM then conducted a meeting of the

Cabinet in which decisions were taken on sev-

eral non-strategic issues. He is learnt to have

told the Cabinet that it was a "proud moment

for everyone" and since "the entire nation was

looking towards us". Modi also declared that

resolve to keep going with the development

works in the face of any kind of adversity, took

several decisions which had nothing to do with

The Cabinet approved the National Scheme

for Industrial Training Institute (ITI)

Upgradation and the setting up of five National

Centres of Excellence for Skilling as a centrally-

sponsored scheme. It said an outlay of Rs

60,000 crore has been provided in Budget 2024-

The Cabinet also approved the expansion of

academic and infrastructure capacity of five

new Indian Institutes of Technology at Tirupati

in Andhra Pradesh, Palakkad in Kerala, Bhilai

at Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Dharwad in

Karnataka. (IIT Bhilai), Jammu & Kashmir (IIT

Jammu) and Karnataka (IIT Dharwad) at a total

cost of Rs.11,828 crore over a period of four

years from 2025-26 to 2028-29. It also approved

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

also took a decision on Cabinet Committee on

approving grant of fresh coal linkages to

Thermal Power Plants of central, state and

Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the

revised SHAKTI Policy of 2017 which was

drafted to change coal allocation from a nomi-

nation-based regime to a more transparent

Incidentally, the way the Cabinet conducted

itself without any signs of panic was also

reflected in the Indian stock exchanges that

remained resolute despite the conflict at the

northern borders. Though the GIFT Nifty had

indicated a tepid opening, both the NSE and

Stock Exchange ended over 3 percent down.

auction or tariff-based bidding process.

creation of 130 faculty posts in these IlTs and

setting of five research parks therein.

25 and Budget 2025-26 for the scheme.

The Cabinet meeting, in a display of India's

to choose the mode, target and timing for their

PM in business as...

property, was also discussed.

response to the Pahalgam attack.

"we are proud of our armed forces".

the strikes.

"India has demonstrated considerable

### **BJP MLA likely to lose** seat after setback in SC

**Manish Godha** 

**JAIPUR** 

A BJP MLA Kanwarlal Meena is almost on verge of losing assembly membership as the Supreme Court on Wednesday has rejected his special leave petition (SLP).

He has been ordered to surrender before the trial court in two weeks.

The trial court had sentenced Kanwarlal to three years in the case of pointing a gun at the SDM and government damaging property.

Notably, under the Representation of the People Act 1951, there is a provision to disqualify an MP or an Assembly member if he is sentenced to more than 2 years. During the hearing in the

Supreme Court, the bench of Justice Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Sanjay Karol rejected all the arguments made by the lawyers of Meena and has directed him to surrender in two weeks.

MLA Meena approached the Rajasthan High Court against the verdict of trial court but couldn't get relief there.

The opposition Congress have already demanded action against Meena citing the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

#### From front page

#### **PAKISTAN PUNISHED**

He said the Pahalgam attack was "driven by the objective of undermining normalcy returning to Kashmir" and "the family members were deliberately traumatised through the manner of killing, accompanied by the exhortation that they should take back the message."

He said following the identification of the attackers, "based on eyewitness accounts as well as other information available to law enforcement agencies", the intelligence developed an accurate picture of the planners and backers of this team. "The features of this attack also tie in with Pakistan's long-standing record of perpetrating cross-border attacks on India, which is well documented and beyond question."

The FS cautioned that "intelligence indicated that further attacks against India are impending" and therefore due to "compulsion, both to deter and prevent" India exercised its right to respond to deter such more cross-border terrorism.

Meanwhile, as India remained prepared to see if Pakistan would indulge in any escalation, Pakistani Defence Minister Khwaja Asif on Wednesday said, ""If India stops attacking us, we will wrap up things." His remarks stood in sharp contrast to the bravado he displayed a day earlier when he had remarked, "If Pakistan is attacked then the world will remember our reaction, nobody will survive."

#### Trump hopes 'it ends...

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has urged the National Security Advisors of both countries to keep lines of communication open and avoid escalation, his office said on

Wednesday. Pakistan. He urged both to keep lines of communication open and avoid escalation," the State Department said on a post X. Rubio also spoke with Pakistani National Security Advisor Asim

Rubio said he is monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely and hopes this "ends quickly".

"I am monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely. I echo @POTUS's comments earlier today that this hopefully ends quickly and will continue to engage both Indian and Pakistani leadership towards a peaceful res-

olution," Rubio said in a post on X. China said it finds "India's military operation early this morning regrettable." "We are concerned about the ongoing situation," China's Foreign Ministry said. "China opposes all forms of terrorism," it said, adding that "We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions that may further complicate

the situation," the statement said. Asked about India's assertion that it targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK, Lin said, "we also noted that both India and Pakistan have said that they don't hope to see escalation of

the situation".

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for "maximum military restraint" from India and Pakistan, saying the world cannot afford a military confrontation between the two countries.

"The Secretary-General is very concerned about the Indian military operations across the Line of Control and the international border. He calls for maximum military restraint from both countries. The world cannot afford a military confrontation between India and Pakistan," the secretary-general's spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said.

Russia said, "We are deeply concerned about the intensifying military confrontation between India and Pakistan after the terrorist attack near the city of Pahalgam. "Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova was quoted by TAS as saying, "We call on the parties involved to exercise restraint in order to prevent further

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

#### Opposition unites...

We applaud their resolute resolve and courage." He further wrote on "X" that, "Since the day of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian National Congress has categorically stood with the armed forces and the government to take any decisive action against cross border terror. National unity and solidarity is the need of the hour ... Our leaders have shown the path in past, and national

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav also chose brevity as he just wrote "Parakramo "Earlier this afternoon, @SecRubio spoke to Vijayate" meaning `valour triumphs' in his post the locations were selected in such a manner as the national security advisors from India and on "X". This also happens to be the motto of the to ensure no damage to civilians and their infra-

Kumaon Regiment of the Indian Army. Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee also wrote "Jai

#### Sajjad Gul, Lashkar...

Hind! Jai India!" in her post.

He returned to the Valley, where he opened a diagnostic lab and provided logistical support to the terror group.

During his work as an overground worker (OGW) of the terror group, Gul was caught by the Special Cell of the Delhi police in 2002 from Nizamuddin Railway Station with 5 kilograms of RDX. It was revealed that he was conducting a recce and conspiring to conduct serial blasts in the national capital, for which he was sentenced

to 10 years imprisonment on August 7, 2003. He moved to Pakistan after his release from prison in 2017, where the ISI chose him to lead a proxy of the LeT - The Resistance Front (TRF) in Kashmir in 2019 in the aftermath of Pulwama

His brother, an former doctor in Shri English, complementing each other. Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital, Srinagar, was also a terrorist in the 1990s who had migrated to Saudi Arabia and later to Pakistan, where he is

### 'Mars, Venus missions also on radar' PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that India was marching ahead with renewed confidence in the field of space exploration and its astronauts' footprints will be on

launched based on inputs

about the presence of senior

cadres of battalion no. 1, the

strongest military formation

of Maoists, Dandakaranya

Special Zonal Committee

(DKSZC) and Telangana state

women, belonging to the

PLGA battalion no.1 of Maoists

carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh

On April 24, three Naxalite

committee of Maoists.

Mars and Venus were also on the the country's radar for exploration missions, he stressed in a pre-recorded message for the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX-2025) here.

by 2035 and land an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040. "India's space journey is not

about racing others. It is about reaching higher together. Together, we share a common goal to explore space for the good of humanity," he said in the video message that was recorded on Tuesday.

He said India has launched a satellite for the South Asian nations and the G20 satellite, announced during its presidency of the grouping, will be a gift to the Global South.

"Our first human spacehighlights our nation's rising

### **Equality to guide** payout for land acquisition: SC

PTI **NEW DELHI** 

> The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the compensation for land acquisition cannot be assessed in a mechanical manner but must be guided by considerations of equality, equity and justice.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said a fundamental principle in land acquisition jurisprudence was that lands with similar locational and developmental potential must be compensated equitably unless clear, objective distinctions justify otherwise.

The bench said it must caution against an "excessively positivist" approach in matters of land acquisi-

"It is well understood that the very exercise of assessing compensation is antithetical to rigid formalism. Compensation cannot be assessed in a mechanical or formulaic manner but must be guided by considerations of equality, equity, and justice," it said.

The apex court's verdict came on a batch of crossappeals filed by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation and several landowners challenging the quantum of compensation awarded by the Punjab and Haryana High Court for the land situated in Fazalwas and Kukrola villages in Gurugram district. The bench observed the acquisition proceedings commenced in April 2008 and the public purpose of the acquisition was to build Chaudhary Devi Lal Industrial Model Township. The determination of compensation for compulsory acquisitions under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, was fundamentally an exercise in equity, it

### CM Stalin confident of

retaining power in TN

PTI CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday expressed full confidence of winning the 2026 Assembly election and said the regime led by him in the state has enhanced the life standards of all the

Addressing an event held here to mark the completion of 4 years of the DMK regime, the chief minister said his government has created a scenario of no violence, including those based on caste or religion and also; there is no poverty or hunger deaths or inflation.

Stalin, President of the DMK, assumed office as chief minister on May 7, 2021.

BSE closed in the green, up nearly a tenth of a percentage point each. This contrasted with Referring to a slew of welfare schemes one by one, the situation in Pakistan where the Karachi Stalin said Tamil Nadu, with 9.69 per cent economic growth, ranked first in the country. "This is unprecedented economic growth."

deterioration of the situation in the region." The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, asked India and Pakistan "to exercise restraint, deescalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace," according to a statement from UAE Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh

interest is supreme for us."

in February 2019.

Wing Commander Singh said the strikes were taken through "precision capabilities". "Niche technology weapons with careful selec-

Gulf countries. be no collateral damage. The point of impact, in each of the target was a specific building or a group of buildings," the IAF officer said.

Pakistan also has a well-deserved reputation as a haven for terrorists from around the world, with internationally proscribed terrorists enjoying impunity there. In addition, Pakistan has been known to wilfully mislead the world and international forums, such as the Financial Action Task Force, on this issue. The Sajid Mir case, in which this terrorist was declared dead and then, in response to international pressure, brought back to life, found alive and arrested, is the most

now involved in terror funding with fugitives in

Misri focus on TRF

glaring example. According to the FBI website, Sajid Mir of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, carries a \$ 5 million reward on his head, and is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai which killed approximately 170 people, including six Americans. Mir was identified as the "chief planner of the attacks, directing preparations and reconnaissance, and was one of the Pakistan-based controllers during the attacks." He also conspired to attack a newspaper and its employees in Denmark between 2008 and 2009. Mir was indicted in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Chicago, Illinois, on April 21, 2011.Pakistan had claimed he was dead but later produced him alive and prosecuted him in order to get out of the FATF grey list.

#### PM chose codename

and strike targets, often autonomously or under human control, before being expended.

The coordinates for the attacks were provided by intelligence agencies, and the strikes were carried out entirely from Indian soil. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said that

Col Sofiya Qureshi also presented the videos of destruction of terror camps, including from the Muridke and where David Headley and

attacks, received training. At 'Operation Sindoor' briefing in Delhi also

Ajmal Kasab, perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai

Nari Shakti took centrestage. Misri was flanked by Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, presenting a striking image of a combination of India's prow-

ess in military and diplomacy.

After delivering the opening statement from the government, first in Hindi and then in English, Misri announced that the two officers would be briefing on the broader details of the operation.

Col Qureshi from the Army's Corps of

Signals, and Wg Cdr Singh, a helicopter pilot,

shared the names and details of the sites targeted in the early hours on Wednesday. The army officer spoke in Hindi while the IAF helicopter pilot shared the details in

epaper.freepressjournal.in

# State on high alert, joins 'Operation Abhyaas'

### Rescue teams deployed amid mock Mandovi bridge collapse

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **PANAJI**

With Goa on high alert, air sirens were kept ready, selective areas witnessed power blackouts, rescue teams were deployed and a mock Mandovi bridge collapse scenario was enacted during a large-scale civil defence exercise 'Operation Abhyaas' on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has stated that Goa has been kept on high alert, being a coastal state. "Both districts have been kept on high alert. Goa is a coastal state... coast guard, police and others are also on alert," he said while addressing a press conference after a cabinet

Both North and South Goa, designated as civil defence districts, took part in the nationwide civil defence preparedness drill held at 244 locations across the country. The exercise was held under the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, in the backdrop of the recent terror attacks in Pahalgam.

In North Goa, the drill was carried out at the Indian National Watersports Centre, Miramar; Panaji Ferry Wharf and M/s Goa Glass Fibre Ltd. Colvale. The Mandovi bridge collapse simulation at the Ferry Wharf tested the preparedness of key departments and agencies in search and rescue, evacuation, and mass casualty management. Civil Defence volunteers also actively took part in the exercise.

In South Goa, mock drills were carried out at various locations including Margao



Mock civil defence drills held at Panaji ferry wharf and at Narayan Pissurlenkar Donapaula.

railway station, IOCL terminal at Vasco, and Dabolim. The coordinated effort saw participation from hundreds of police personnel, firefighters, civil defence volunteers, home guards, officials from the district administration and various government departments.

The government stated that the objective was to test inter-agency coordination, public response, and emergency services in a simulated crisis. The exercise helped evaluate the readiness of line departments and ensured citizens are sensitised to follow instructions during real emergencies.

CM Sawant had earlier appealed to the public to cooperate and participate in the drill by following alerts issued via radio and television.

"The primary objective of the exercise is to assess the preparedness, response capabilities, and inter-agency coordination during civil emergencies, particularly in scenarios involving evacuation, mass casualty management, firefighting, and search and rescue operations," he said.

### Civil defence drill conducted at Dabolim Airport, IOC depot

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **VASCO**

As part of a nationwide civil defence exercise, a mock drill was conducted in Mormugao Taluka on Wednesday to bolster emergency preparedness in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack and ongoing border tensions.

The exercise focused on testing air-raid warning systems, shelter readiness, and evacuation procedures.

Drills were held at Dabolim Airport and the IOC depot in Vasco. Air raid sirens were heard across Vasco and Dabolim at 4 pm, triggering simulations that included mock evacuations, search and rescue operations, and a planned blackout to test the city's crisis response capabilities.

Civil defence volunteers, including NCC cadets, home guards, and students, actively participated in the drill.

At Dabolim Airport, a simulated fire evacuation from the administrative building was conducted, followed by the rescue of personnel from the premises. Speaking to reporters, Mormugao Deputy Collector Bhagwant Karmali said the exercise was part of Operation Abhyaas and aimed at evaluating the readiness of state authorities to handle emergency situations.

"The drill helps train volunteers in first aid, evacuation, and emergency protocols. With support from the police, CISF, fire services, and other stakeholders, we successfully executed the operation. A 15-minute blackout in the areas of Chicalim, Dabolim, and Sancoale followed the siren alert, allowing us to test the



Mock drill being conducted at the Administrative buliding in Dabolim Airport on Wednesday.

#### 2 commercial flights cancelled

**VASCO:** Dabolim Airport Director George Varghese informed that two commercial flights had been cancelled at Dabolim airport on Wednesday.

"Flights to Chandigarh, Amritsar, and Hindon operate from Dabolim Airport, and two commercial flights have already been cancelled. We are monitoring the situation and are prepared for any developments," Varghese said.

Noting that similar mock drills are conducted regularly at Dabolim airport, Varghese said: "We had a comparable exercise two weeks ago. Today's mock drill focused on evacuation and rescue with the help of the state administration and CISF. Around 22 airports close to the nodal region have been closed down."

efficiency of communication systems," said Karmali.

A mock exercise simulating an air strike scenario was conducted at IOCL, Vasco. The exercise depicted significant damage and fire resulting from the simulated strike. Four seriously injured workers were shifted to Chicalim Sub-District Hospital (SDH), while 20 workers were successfully rescued.

A mock drill was conducted at Dabolim Airport to simulate an air strike scenario. In this exercise, 20 civilians, portrayed as trapped, were successfully rescued.

The operation was coordinated by Mormugao Deputy Collector Bhagwant Karmali. Assistance was provided by officials from various line departments and agencies.

### Mass casualty and transport disruption drill in Margao

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **MARGAO**

A simulated mass casualty and public transport disruption drill was conducted on Wednesday evening to test the civil defence preparedness as part of the nationwide exercise 'Operation Abhyaas'.

Officials and personnel of various agencies participated in the mock drill as they tested the efficacy of handling casualties in times of emergencies.

Deputy Collector, Margao Ganesh Barve told the media that around 40 casualties were reported during the mock drill, out of which the two severely injured were shifted to the South Goa District Hospital, while those who sustained minor injuries were treated at the local centre.

He further said the fire personnel, along with the tenders, also participated in an exercise to put out the fire.

South Goa District Collectorate officials said the comprehensive multi-agency mock

exercise titled "Operation Abhvaas" has been conducted in the district in pursuance of the Civil Defence Act, 1968 and the Civil Defence Rules, 1968 and as part of the nationwide civil defence preparedness initiative under the directive of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Collector & District Magistrate, South Egna Cleetus oversaw the exercise, involving the coordinated participation of key response agencies and stakeholders, including the Goa Police, Fire & Emer gency Services, Directorate of Health Services, Airport Authority of India, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Konkan Railway Corporation, civil defence volunteers, home guards, District Disaster Management Authority (South Goa), and other supporting departments.

This simulation aims to district-level strengthen emergency readiness and in ter-agency coordination during civil emergencies involving critical infrastructure.



The 'Operation Abhyaas' mock drill underway at the Margao railway station.

#### **Black smoke signals** no pope elected in first conclave vote

**VATICAN CITY:** Black smoke billowed from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel on Wednesday evening, signalling an inconclusive first vote by cardinals locked in the Sistine Chapel in a conclave to elect a new pope to guide the Roman Catholic Church.

Thousands of faithful gathered in St Peter's Square waiting for smoke to pour from a narrow flue on the roof of the chapel at the end of a day rich in ritual and pageantry, with prelates praying for divine guidance in their secret ballot.

The crowds had to be patient as it took longer than expected for the smoke to appear, more than three hours after the start of the conclave. This was an hour more than it took for smoke to be seen.

### **Govt rethinks amending Devasthan** Act after tragic Shirgao stampede

#### PROPOSAL AIMS TO STANDARDISE CONDUCT OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **PANAJI**

Against the backdrop of Shirgao temple stampede, which claimed six lives and injured over 80 people, the Goa government is once again considering amendment to the Devasthan Regulation 1933, in the larger interest of citizens and ensuring any move does not hurt the religious sentiments and flare law and order situation.

The fact-finding committee, constituted by the State government to investigate the

The fact-finding committee is expected to recommend to the State government for an immediate need to amend the regulations to have a standard procedure for conduct of festivities and have a strict government control on conduct of the festivities, etc

stampede that took place during the Shree Devi Lairai Zatra at Shirgao, last weekend, has deliberated on the issue and is of considerable view that the Devasthan Regulations need to be amended to make State government as party to

the functioning of the temple

committees.

Highly placed sources confirmed that the factfinding committee is expected to recommend to the State government for an immediate need to amend the regulations to have a standard procedure for conduct of festivities and

have a strict government control on conduct of the festivities, etc. "The issue was discussed by the fact-finding committee in detail," sources said.

Taking note of a series of instances of rising conflicts between Mazanias (Mahajans) and other community members or villagers over temple rights, resulting in disturbing peace and causing law and order situations, the Government in January, 2023, proposed before the Goa Legislative Assembly its plan to amend the regulations.

### **Zatra stampede: Fact-finding** panel to submit report today

THE GOAN | NETWORK

#### **PANAJI**

The fact-finding committee, constituted to investigate the stampede during Shree Devi Lairai Zatra at Shirgao, will submit its report to the State government on Thursday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

Addressing a press conference post cabinet meeting, Sawant said that the cabinet members observed a minute of silence for the Lairai Zatra stampede incident and held discussion on it. "The fact-finding committee will submit its report tomorrow (Thursday). We will brief public on the findings of the com-

Reservoir levels dip below 30 pc in

mittee," he said.

The committee is led by Commissioner-cum-Revenue Secretary IAS Sandeep Jacques, with Deputy Inspector General of Police Varsha Sharma, Transport Director Pravimal Abhishek (IAS) and Tikam Singh Verma as its members.

The committee is investigating the tragedy that claimed six lives and injured 80 others.

The committee has recorded the statements of Collector Sneha Gitte, Superintendent of Police Akshat Kaushal, Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi, Deputy Collector Bhimnath Khorjuvekar - who all are transferred from the jurisdiction following the

The committee also met the members of the temple committee, some Dhond and villagers.

As reported earlier, the Committee has noted that a similar incident on a minor scale was witnessed even last year; however, no injuries were reported. The incident infact, took place at the same site, where it happened in the

wee hours of Saturday. The committee has also observed that despite the narrow road, temple committees allowed stalls on both the sides of the road and also ignored some of the precautionary measures recommended by the police.

### Coastal body appoints NIO to conduct revised beach-carrying capacity study

#### PROCESS TO DETERMINE PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF BEACH SHACKS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

**PANAJI** 

#### After almost seven years, the Goa government has initiated a process to conduct a revised beach-carrying capacity study of the coastal belt.

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) the nodal agency for undertaking the exercise, has appointed National Institute of Oceanography for the detailed study, which is expected to be completed before the upcoming tourism season.

Sources confirmed that GCZMA has issued a work order to NIO for assessing the

#### REGULATE BEACH SHACKS

Goa government initiates a revised beach-carrying capacity study after nearly seven years, aiming for completion before the next tourism season

■ The study will assess the number of beach shacks that can be permitted. considering CRZ areas,

no-development zones, and ecologically sensitive regions

■ The State government suggests allowing temporary structures in no-development zones (excluding eco-sensitive areas), based on CZMP 2011 and CRZ 2019 norms

sidering the no development beach carrying capacity of the coastal belt and to recomzone cum CRZ areas, ecologimend the number of shacks cally sensitive areas, etc. that could be permitted based It was in 2017, that the last on the saturation and conbeach-carrying capacity study

was undertaken through the Chennai-based National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM). The NCSCM had permitted 1,131 shacks for the entire coastal area; however, currently on an average 360 shacks are permitted on beaches.

NCSCM had recommended that only 33 per cent of the beach area can be made available for erection of shacks after deducting the ecologically sensitive areas, river mouth, creeks, fishing space and buffer area at entry points. The agency had advised the government to revise the carrying capacity study after five years.

### THE GOAN I NETWORK

across the State have recorded a steady decline in water levels, largely attributed to the lack of adequate

According to data from the Water Resources Department (WRD), at least three major reservoirs have dipped below 30 per cent of their storage capacity, while only two dams

reported levels above 50 per supplies water to Sattari and water level decline to just 27

# key areas as Goa awaits showers

**MAPUSA** 

▲ number of key reservoirs pre-monsoon showers.

– Chapoli and Gaunem – have

cent. The Anjunem dam, which parts of Bicholim, has seen its per cent.

Similarly, the Tillari dam, a

#### **DIP IN WATER LEVELS: A CONCERN?**

Several key reservoirs in Goa have seen a steady decline in water levels due to insufficient pre-monsoon showers

At least three major reservoirs are now below 30% of their storage capacity, including Anjunem (27%), Tillari (29%), and Panchwadi (30%)

critical source of raw water for

across Goa, currently stands at

both drinking and irrigation

The minor Panchwadi

29 per cent.

mains at 45%, though both are considered relatively stable ■ Smaller dams like Chapoli and Gaunem have maintained higher water

■ The Selaulim reservoir

in South Goa stands at

43%, while Amthane re-

levels at 51% and 60%, respectively

reservoir, catering to Shiroda and Panchwadi regions, has dropped to 30 per cent of its

total capacity. South Goa's Selaulim reservoir, considered the primary lifeline for drinking water in the region, is at 43 per cent capacity, while the Amthane reservoir – serving Bardez and parts of Bicholim – is relatively stable at 45 per cent.

In contrast, the smaller but vital Chapoli and Gaunem dams in Canacona have maintained relatively higher water levels, at 51 and 60 per cent, respectively. Despite the concerning trends, officials from the WRD have assured that the State is not facing an immediate water crisis.

"The current storage levels are sufficient to meet the State's drinking water needs for at least the next two months," a senior WRD official told The Goan.



#### Vande Bharat to have more AC chair car coaches

Western Railway is set to add four additional AC Chair Car coaches to the 20901/02 Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express. Until now, the train had 16 coaches, including 2 Executive Chair Cars and 14 AC Chair Cars. With the addition, the total number of coaches will increase to 20. This will raise the seating capacity from 1,128 to 1,440, allowing more passengers to enjoy a comfortable journey. According to railway officials, the decision was taken after observing consistently high occupancy rates and anticipating future travel demand on this popular route. No official date has been announced for the addition of the coaches, but the semi-highspeed train is expected to operate with 20 coaches by next week. Currently, the 16coach Vande Bharat Express comprises two Executive Chair Cars (EC) with a total of 104 seats and 14 AC Chair Cars (CC) with 1,024 seats, totaling 1,128 seats. With the addition of four AC Chair Cars, the total seating capacity will increase to

1,440.

#### Fire at Surat **Mission Hospital**

A major fire broke out at the Seventh Day Adventist Mission Hospital in the Athwa Lines area of Surat, causing panic among patients and hospital staff. Thick black smoke was seen billowing from the ground floor, prompting an urgent response from the fire brigade and local volunteers. No casualties were reported. Upon receiving the distress call, multiple fire engines rushed to the spot and immediately began firefighting operations. Firefighters worked swiftly to control the flames and evacuate those inside the building. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, and officials have yet to confirm how many people may have been trapped when the blaze erupted.

#### **RTE: Notice** for collecting money

Ahmedabad: Recently, the first round of admissions under the Right to Education (RTE) Act was conducted, and during this process, Anand Niketan School in Maninagar allegedly charged parents ₹69,000 for mandatory food and transportation services for newly admitted students In response, parents filed a complaint, prompting the District Education Officer (DEO) to issue a notice to the school, demanding an explanation within 24 hours. At Anand Niketan School in Maninagar, new students from economically weaker backgrounds were granted admission to Class 1 under the RTE Act. Following the admission, the school requested parents to pay ₹69,000 for food and transportation services.

WHO IS SHE? | She was commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1999, has received commendations for her service in Op Parakram

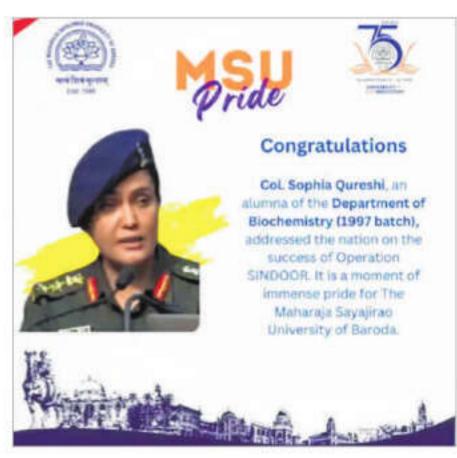
### Meet Col Sophia Qureshi, face of India's military excellence

**FPJ News Service** VADODARA

In the early hours of Wednesday, the Indian Air Force executed air strikes on nine terrorist hideouts in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, eliminating several terrorists. The Indian Army disclosed details of this strategic strike during a press conference, with two distinguished female military officers, including Colonel Qureshi Sophia from Vadodara, Gujarat.

Colonel Sophia Qureshi currently serves as a prominent officer in the Indian Army's Corps of Signals. Renowned for her exemplary service, she commanded India's team in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission and played a pivotal role as a key trainer. Her involvement in Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) spans over six years, beginning with her deployment in the United Nations Congo Peacekeeping Mission in 2006.

Hailing from Vadodara, Gujarat, Colonel Sophia Qureshi pursued her education in biochemistry at MS



University. Her family has a rich military background; her grandfather and father both served in the army. Colonel Sophia Qureshi is married to Major Tajuddin Qureshi, an Army officer in the Mechanized Infantry, and they have a son named Sameer Qureshi.

Colonel Sophia Qureshi completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees Biochemistry from

University before joining the Indian Army through a Short Service Commission in 1999 at the age of 17. She underwent rigorous training at the Officers Training Academy in

Chennai and was commissioned as a Lieutenant. Throughout her career, she has earned commendations for her exceptional contribuefforts in North-East India.

Colonel Sophia Qureshi led a 40-member contingent of the Indian Army in 'Force 18,' a multinational military exercise held in Pune, where she represented India as the sole woman army officer. Her leadership skills and dedication were highlighted by former Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, who emphasized the Indian Army's commitment to equal opportunities and responsibilities irrespective of gender.

In a statement regarding Colonel Sophia Qureshi's participation in ASEAN summits, General Bipin Rawat said, "In the Army, we believe in equal opportunities and equal responsibilities. Sophia Qureshi embodies leadership qualities that transcend gender barriers, earning her role not through tokenism but through merit."

Colonel Sophia Qureshi continues to inspire as a symbol of courage, leadership, and dedication within the Indian Army. Her journey from Vadodara to the global stage of military diplomacy highlighting Gujarat's pride in her achievements and contributions to national security.



### Gujarat airports closed after air strike on Pak, 3200 flyers affected

**FPJ News Service** /AHMEDABAD/RAJKOT

Tensions soared across Gujarat on Wednesday as India conducted a precision air strike on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan, triggering an immediate security clampdown across the border state. Authorities swiftly shut down multiple airports, including the newly built Rajkot International Airport, and issued high alert advisories for coastal and border regions.

In a rapid response to national security protocols, all flights to and from Rajkot, Bhuj, Jamnagar, and Kandla have been suspended until further notice. Ahmedabad Airport has cancelled all domestic flights bound for these cities. "This is a matter of national security. The suspension is temporary but critical," said an airport official on condition of anonym-

The closure has left over 3,200 air passengers stranded just in Rajkot alone, with 11 flights from Air India and IndiGo cancelled today. "I was scheduled to attend a business meeting in Mumbai. This sudden cancellation has not only disrupted my plans but created panic," said Nilesh Patel, a businessman from Rajkot.

Air India, issuing a public statement on X (formerly Twitter), said:

"Following the closure notification of these airports by authorities, Air India is cancelling flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh, and Rajkot till 5:29 PM on May 10. Customers will be offered free rescheduling or full refunds."

"Why was Lalla Bihari allowed to thrive for so long, if not for BJP's political protection?" Gujarat

**BJP** sheltered

Chandola lake

**Congress** 

AHMEDABAD

**FPJ News Service** 

kingpin, blames

Congress In a scathing attack, the Gujarat Congress has accused the ruling BJP of providing political shelter to Lalla Bihari, the alleged kingpin of illegal encroachments and criminal activities Ahmedabad's around Chandola Lake. The opposition claimed that Lalla operated with impunity for years due to covert support from the BJP, which saw him as an

asset for countering

Congress influence in the

region. The controversy escalated following a recent security crackdown triggered by the Pahalgam terror incident. Within hours, security agencies detained 180 suspected Bangladeshi nationals from the Chandola Lake area, revealing a longignored crisis festering under the surface.

"Police acted swiftly after the terror alert. This proves they were aware of the illegal settlements all along," said a Congress spokesper-

### Gujarat rains: 21 dead, red alert in 23 districts

tions during various oper-

ations, including Operation

Parakram and flood relief

**FPJ News Service** 

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat has been reeling under intense rainfall and thunderstorms for the last 48 hours, triggered by three upper air cyclonic circulations and a trough line, affecting 103 talukas and resulting in 21 deaths across the state. Central and East Gujarat have witnessed the highest casualties, accounting for 17 deaths and over 20 injuries, while 3 people and 45 animals died in North Gujarat due to rainrelated incidents.

Torrential downpour has battered multiple regions, with Mahuva in Bhavnagar recording 7.5 inches of rainfall within just six hours. Other severely affected areas include Lathi in Amreli (2.5 inches), Savarkundla (2.5 inches),



Liliya (2 inches) and Amreli town (2 inches). The unrelenting rain has led to widespread damage to infrastructure, electricity lines, and road-

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert in 23 districts and two Union Territories, warning of continued heavy to very heavy rainfall and thunder-

storms in areas such as Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Vadodara,

Moderate rainfall accompanied by winds reaching speeds of 41 to 61 kmph has been forecasted for the next three hours. An orange alert is active in Mehsana, Patan, Rajkot, Surendranagar,

Surat, Valsad, Daman, and

Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Porbandar, and Junagadh, while a yellow alert covers Banaskantha, Morbi, Devbhoomi Jamnagar, Dwarka, and Kutch, which are also vulnerable due to the cyclonic conditions.

In Ahmedabad, the situation has worsened with the opening of Vasna Barrage gates, prompting an alert for Dholka and low-lying areas. fire department responded to over 20 tree fall incidents, while a transformer caught fire, disrupting electricity in parts of the city. Fire incidents were also reported in two AC units at an ATM on Waghodia Road.

At noon on Tuesday, the city was engulfed in darkness as thick black clouds loomed. Light rain continued in areas like Naranpura, Vadaj, Memnagar, Akhbarnagar, and

Shastri Bridge, causing major traffic congestion near Thaltei and Palladium Mall due to waterlogging.

Interestingly, the rainy weather sparked a long queue outside the famous Anand Dalvada shop in Naranpura, where people stood in lines for hot snacks and kheer for 15–20 minutes despite the downpour. In Smart City Vadodara, the

ongoing 100-day mission to clean and widen the Vishwamitri River and drainage systems failed to prevent flooding in slum and low-lying areas. Water entered homes and shops in areas like Hathikhana and Tulsiwadi, while parked vehicles were submerged. Angry residents have raised questions about the efficacy of the municipal administration.

### Air India Express leaves behind 25 passengers

**FPJ News Service** 

SURAT

"This is utter negligence—we were left behind like baggage," shouted a stranded passenger in a now-viral video capturing the frustration and chaos at Delhi Airport on Monday night, after Air India Express left behind 25 Suratbound passengers.

The passengers were en route from Guwahati to Surat via Delhi on the Guwahati-Delhi-Surat connecting flight, operated by Air India Express. But due to what passengers described as a "complete failure of coordination and basic customer service,"

gers arguing with Delhi airport staff, pleading for answers and accountability. The Air India Express manager in Surat was reportedly unresponsive, further fueling the anger.

The video shows passen-

The incident reflects poorly on Air India Express, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, especially at a time when the airline is under scrutiny for frequent operational lapses. Passengers also expressed dismay at the flight's consistent unreliability, with many calling it "regularly irregular."

"All it needed was a 30minute delay in departure, and none of this would have



### SGCCI pushes for 24x7 int'l airport

**Melvyn Thomas** 

In a decisive move to boost Surat's global connectivity, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) held an impactful meeting with Surat Airport Director Anand Sharma on Tuesday, urging the immediate commencement of international aircargo operations and 24x7 airport access.

The meeting, held at 4:00 PM at the Surat International Airport premises, was attended by key stakeholders from the Chamber and Airport Authority of India. SGCCI President Vijay Mewawala set the tone for the session, highlighting the urgency of equipping Surat with robust international air utility," he said.

logistics infrastructure.

"Surat contributes significantly to Gujarat's economy through diamonds, textiles, and agri-exports. Our entrepreneurs are ready. All we need now is an airport that works round the clock with international cargo access," Mewawala asserted in his welcome speech.

He pointed out that despite Surat's global trade links, the lack of international cargo flights and limited airport operational hours have kept the region from realizing its

full potential. In response, Airport Director Anand Sharma reassured the Chamber that development plans are underway. "We are working towards enhancing passenger convenience and airport

### Rs12.5cr worth of hydroponic ganja seized at A'bad airport

**FPJ News Service** AHMEDABAD

In a shocking escalation of drug trafficking incidents, hydroponic marijuana worth ₹12.5 crore was seized from three Indian tourists

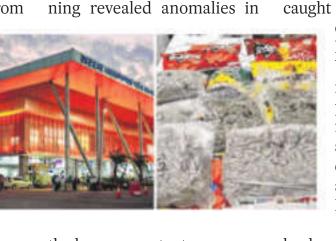
arriving from Bangkok Ahmedabad's Vallabhbhai Sardar Patel International Airport on Tuesday. This marks the sec-

ond consecutive day such a seizure has been made and the third major bust within a week, indicating a disturbing trend in interna-

Thailand. The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), acting on a tip-off and suspicious baggage scanning results, intercepted the three

tional drug smuggling via

kilograms of hydroponic ganja packed in 24 airtight packets. Officials revealed that the contraband was hidden in such a way that it could evade casual inspection, but scan-



the luggage contents.

"This is not a coincidence; it points to an organised drug syndicate using Indian tourists as carriers," said a senior customs official involved in the operation. "All three passengers have been arrested passengers and found 12.557 under the Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigation is underway." Just a day earlier, an Indian

woman flying in from Bangkok via Vietnam was caught with 19.728 kilograms of hydroponic ganja

hidden in her trolley bag. The ganja, packed in 18 vacuum-sealed packets, was confirmed by lab testing and valued at ₹19.72 crore. She, too, was arrested under the NDPS Act.

These two back-toback seizures come on the heels of another massive bust a week ago, where four tourists from Bangkok were caught with 37 kilograms of hydroponic ganja cleverly disguised among snack packets. The total value of that seizure was estimated at ₹37 crore.

they found themselves stuck at Delhi airport while their Surat-bound aircraft took off without them.

The flight from Guwahati landed at 8:42 pm, and the Delhi-Surat leg took off at 8:56 pm—a window of merely 14 minutes, which proved impossible for the connecting passengers to make. Had the flight taken off at 9:30 pm, as some passengers suggested, all of them could have boarded.

"We were kept waiting for two hours, and then told the flight had departed. I have an important business meeting in Surat tomorrow morning, and now I don't know what to do," said a visibly angry passenger. Another one, preparing for a job interview in Surat, said, "This could cost me my future.'

Surat to host night cyclothon

happened," said one of the aggrieved travelers, pointing to the absence of empathy or flexibility in flight manage-

With the video now circulating widely on social media, the airline faces mounting criticism from both passengers and industry observers. The footage shows heated exchanges between passengers and ground staff, and one person reportedly even fainted during the standoff, highlighting the emotional and physical

toll of the incident.

Travel forums and frequent flyer groups are abuzz with complaints about Air India Express's handling of connecting flights. Many are calling for intervention from aviation authorities and a formal apology from the airline.

### Bhavika wins Miss India Millennium Universe



#### **FPJ News Service**

SURAT

In a proud moment for Surat and the BrahmKshatriya community of Rajasthan, 25-yearold Bhavika Khatri has won the prestigious title of Miss India Millennium Universe The national-level beauty pageant was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on April 30, with over 50 participants from across India. Bhavika emerged as the winner after advancing through the final round of 12 finalists.

Originally from Rajasthan and now residing in Surat, Bhavika will represent India at the international stage in Paris this September, bringing immense pride to her roots and her city.

A former medical student, Bhavika made a bold shift to the film industry at the age of 21. In just four years, she has starred in 12 Gujarati films and won over 70 awards in both education and acting. Recently seen in a Gujarati film, Bhavika is now stepping into Hindi television and web series as well.

Her upcoming projects include a significant role in Ramayana, set to air on DD National, as well as performances in Kamadhenu on Star Plus and over 40 album songs. Her film Prem nu Dhaating, sentative of my society."

produced by Jignesh Khatri, and DOWRY, directed by Suresh Joshi, are set for release soon. She will also appear in Tu Duniya Che Mari alongside popular actor Vikram Thakor, which is expected to hit theatres next month.

Bhavika expressed her gratitude, saying, "When I was studying medicine, people recognized me as an influencer. I faced many challenges being the only daughter in my family, but with constant support from my father, mother, and brother, I've come this far. I now aim to be an inspiration and a proud repre-

### for healthy, obesity-free state

**FPJ News Service** SURAT

Gujarat has declared the year 2025 as Urban Development Year, under which a series of city-centric events are being organized across the state. As part of this initiative, a special campaign titled "Healthy Gujarat, Obesity-Free Gujarat" will be held across all 17 municipal corporations and 36 municipalities on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

The Surat Municipal Corporation will organize a 10-kilometre Night Cyclothon-



25 on May 11, starting at 6:30 PM from the Police Parade Ground, passing through Rahul Raj Mall, and returning to the starting point. Around 7,000 participants are expected to take part in the event.

Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal chaired meetings with the cycling association, educational and voluntary institutions, sports authority of Gujarat, and the state yoga board to ensure broad community participation.

#### **GEARING UP FOR EMERGENCY | Police, SDRF and fire teams** conduct search and rescue operations to enhance coordination

# CITIES TEST war readiness

**Our Staff Reporter** BHOPAL

In a massive state-wide civil defence simulation, mock drills were conducted on Wednesday across five major districts of Madhya Pradesh — Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Katni. The coordinated exercise, held as per directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, aimed at preparing forces and civilians alike for war-

like emergency scenarios. The drills kicked off around 4 PM and continued into the evening with a citywide blackout, plunging urban areas into total darkness for several minutes. This was followed by emergency response rehearsals, where police and civil defence units simulated fire control, rescue of injured civilians and emergency evacuations.

At Raja Bhoj Airport, authorities enacted a special war-time fire incident drill to test firefighting and passenger safety protocols. Local residents, though witnessing such an event for the first time, cooperated fully with the administration, following directions and observing safety procedures.

Authorities recorded blackout sequences and teams practised moving

SIRENS WAIL, LIGHTS OFF DURING MOCK DRILL

**Our Staff Reporter** 

**BHOPAL** 

casualties to nearby hospitals

amid simulated chaos-

demonstrating high alert-

ness and rapid response.

At 7:30 PM on Wednesday, Bhopal came to a standstill as pitch darkness engulfed the city during a 12-minute blackout drill simulating wartime conditions. Sirens wailed across neighbourhoods, reminiscent of the 1971 India-Pakistan war, especially for elderly citizens who lived through that era.

The blackout was part of a state-wide civil defence exercise to prepare citizens and authorities for emergency situations, amid rising geopolitical tension. The drill, intensified by overcast skies, created a realistic war-like atmosphere. Lights were voluntarily switched off in

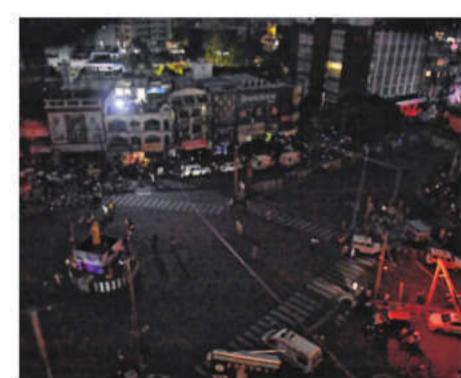
> homes, shops, hospitals, malls, hotels and even vehicles. Major intersections like Board Office, Roshanpura, Bhoj Bridge, Kolar Road and MP Nagar traffic halt as structed com-

muters to turn off headlights. VIP

and follow protocol.

curiosity.

times of crisis.



A view of Bhopal during black out on Wednesday evening

#### **CM MONITORS DRILL, URGES AWARENESS**

hief Minister Mohan Yadav reviewed the drill operations across all five cities and held discussions with district collectors. He said that every district must remain alert and complete all necessary civil defence preparations. He also directed that civilians be educated about emergency protocols to protect themselves in crises. "Public participation and awareness are key to a safe and effective response," CM said, calling on officials to intensify civil defence outreach efforts.

Road, too, plunged into complete darkness, with long queues of stationary vehicles lining the street.

In the Old City, areas like Jehangirabad, Shahjehanabad, Aishbagh, and Chowk followed suit. Even the Tajul-Masajid's minaret lights were switched off, adding to the chilling realism of the scene. Police made announcements across the city urging people to cooperate

Despite the eerie quiet, the scene wasn't without its mod-

ern twist-many residents stepped out to record videos of the blackout on their mobile phones, turning the event into a surreal blend of past memories and present-day digital

The drill was a part of a broader effort to assess readiness and public awareness in

### Police, administration on alert mode after Operation Sindoor

#### **CM and Congress leaders congratulate Indian Army**

#### **OUR STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

The government has asked the police and administration to remain on alert after Operation Sindoor.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) destroyed many terrorists' hideouts in POK to avenge the killings of tourists in Pahalgam in the early hours of Wednes-

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav told Director General of Police Kailash Makwana and ADG (Intelligence) Sai Manohar to keep the police on alert mode.

He held the talks with Makwana and Manohar after the Operation Sindoor.

Makwana also discussed law and order with the police officers across the state. He also said to the administration to remain alert.

Makwana told the officials to keep an eye on the suspicious people.

Operation Sindoor has delighted everyone. The officials have been told to monitor the suspicious people.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed happiness about the air attack on the terrorists' hideouts in POK.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi always translates his words into deeds, Yadav said.

The destruction of nine hideouts of Pakistani terrorists



BJP MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani and BJP workers celebrate Operation Sindoor success



All India Muslim Tyohar committee members burn flag of **Pakistan** 

delighted every citizen of the

country, he said.

The Indian Army has taught a lesson to the enemy. Yaday

He said all Indians were united against the massacre of 26 tourists in Pahalgam.

The Congress also ex-

pressed joy at the IAF action. Leader of the Opposition

Umang Singhar congratulated the IAF. BJP's state unit president VD Sharma and MPCC president Jitu Patwari also congratulated the Indian Army for destroying terrorists' camps in Pakistan.

#### People watch Indian Army's heroic deeds throughout night the attack. The Indian Army wal remained active on social

**CM** congratulates the army at 2.16 am on social media

**Bhopal:** The people across the state woke up in the early hours of Wednesday to watch the heroic acts of the Indian Army inside the Pakistani ter-

Each resident kept himself posted about each moment of

informed the people about the action at 1:51am, writing Operation Sindoor.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated the Indian Army on social media at 2:16am. BJP's state unit president VD Sharma, organisational general secretary Hitanand Sharma and state media in-charge Ashish Agarmedia throughout the night.

Whosoever came to know about the army's action informed their acquaintances about it. Everyone was enthusiastic about the action. Every citizen of India wanted a strong action against Pakistan after the Pahalgam massacre.

The action of the Indian Army delighted every citizen.

### 19 DSPs now part of state police



1st batch of DSPs trained under new criminal law

**Our Staff Reporter** 

The parade of probationary Deputy Superintends of Police (DSPs) of 43rd batch was held on Madhya Pradesh Police Academy parade ground on Wednesday. In all, 19 probationers took part in the parade. Now, they have become part of Madhya Pradesh

A cop during mock drill at

New Market in Bhopal on

Wednesday

State DGP Kailash Makwana who was the chief guest said the newly inducted DSPs were placed on the job across state where senior officials informed them about their work. According to Makwana, they are the first batch of DSPs who have been trained under new criminal law. Out of 19 DSPs, seven are women.

The DGP felicitated new DSPs Anand Rai and Sujeet Kumar Kadve for obtaining first and second position in outdoor training.

### 184 mule bank accounts identified, owners get notice

**Our Staff Reporter BHOPAL** 

Although the cyber conmen are operating from far off areas and overseas, they are using local bank accounts for transferring the cash duped from people through digital arrests and other pretexts. Cyber crime branch police have identified 184 suspected mule bank accounts in Bhopal through joint cyber crime coordination team (JCCT) portal or Samanvay portal. Notices are now being issued to owner

accounts. Cyber crime branch officials said cyber police of other states sealed the suspected mule bank accounts and shared their information and details of their owners on JCCT portal as these bank accounts were found to be used by the cyber conmen for com-

of these suspected mule bank



Till now, notices have been issued to owners of 70 such bank a/cs in the city

**Bank accounts** used for transferring cash duped through digital arrest, other pretexts

mitting frauds. Bhopal cyber crime branch identified the mule bank accounts that were opened in different banks in Bhopal and

prepared a list of their

owners with their address and other details.

ACP (cyber crime) Sujeet Tiwari said a team had been formed for issuing notice to owners of these bank accounts while informing them to approach the cyber cops of the concerned cities for giving clarification. Till now, notices have been issued to owners of 70 such bank accounts in the city, he added.

Earlier, the cyber crime branch had issued notices to banks to take action against suspected mule bank accounts and help cops in their identification. Moreover, bank officials were asked to strengthen the verification process for opening new bank accounts after it came to fore that people from outside the city and states opened bank accounts on forged documents and fake rent agreements.

### Coaching centre owner held in Love Jihad case

24 obscene videos found

**FP News Service** 

In a shocking revelation, police nabbed Aslam Khan alias Abhi, owner of a computer coaching centre named Abhi Insaniyat in Jiwajiganj, on charges of blackmail, sexual exploitation, and Love Jihad. The arrest followed complaints from a victim's family

and members of the Hindu

Jagran Manch. Khan allegedly posed as a Hindu named 'Abhi' and lured female students into his institute by showcasing his supposed devotion to Lord Shiva. Daily writings of Shiv Mahima on the classroom blackboard and multiple photos of Lord Shiva on the

premises were used as a cover to mislead students and parents. Police recovered 24 objectionable videos recorded through hidden cameras installed in the institute's library. The videos allegedly show Khan engaging in obscene acts with female students, whom he later blackmailed by threatening to leak the footage.

He reportedly coerced some into physical relationships and attempted to force religious conversion.

One brave victim broke the silence and informed her parents, who then contacted Devendra Mudgal of Hindu Jagran Manch. The group caught Khan red-handed and handed him over to the Kotwali police. Investigations revealed Khan is a native of Gormi, Bhind, and is linked to the Insaniyat Foundation, a Aslam Khan alias Abhi

group whose members avoid surnames to mask identities. His institute had a partner named Pradeep Sharma, who is also under scrutiny.

Authorities suspect Khan is part of a wider racket spanning multiple districts and possibly international links. CSP Deepali Chandoria confirmed the ongoing investigation and stated that while Hindu imagery filled the coaching centre, the accused's official records list him as Aslam Khan. The case has sparked outrage, with Hindu groups demanding a deeper probe into coaching centres being used for exploitation under the guise of education.

# Congress district heads to be appointed in two weeks

State in-charge held meetings of several committees **Our Staff Reporter** 

Congress's state in-charge, Harish Choudhary, and MPCC president Jitu Patwari held a meeting with the members of various committees of the party on Wednesday.

committee meeting, the party decided to complete the formalities for appointments soon.

The posts of district unit presidents should be filled within two weeks, Choudhary said.

He said block presidents should also be appointed and pending issues settled. All partymen should swing

into election management

after the appointments, he



said. Choudhary had to hold a meeting with the media cell, too. But all spokespersons At the election management were not informed about the

Most of the spokespersons were absent from the meeting because of certain confusion. Choudhary, however, held a meeting with the media and

social media in-charges.

aggressive.

He told all the in-charges to get ready for the election. The party has to be ready at

the grassroots and look more

Chintan meeting can be held in **Pachmarhi** The Congress may or-

ganise a Chintan meeting in Pachmarhi in the coming days, keeping in mind the assembly election of 2028. It figured in several

meetings between the

party in charge and the leaders that the Congress holds a state con-Every leader of the party

should participate in it. **Save Constitution** 

drive put off

The Congress has put off its save constitution (Samvidhan Bachao) campaign, keeping in mind the situation arising out of Operation Soindoor by the Indian Army.

### CM: Working women hostels in all cities

Milk for anganwadi children soon

**Our Staff Reporter BHOPAL** 

Chief minister Mohan Yadav hostels for working women would be set up in all cities of the state. Besides, women and child development department and Ayush department will prepare an action plan for the health of women and children, their physical growth and

availability of nutrition. The chief minister was reviewing activities of women and child development department at Mantralaya on Wednesday. He directed officials to present an action plan within a month over how to improve the supplementary

food offered at anganwadis. To provide protein rich food, gram and other nutrition sources will be given. Milk procured from milk unions will be provided to anganwadi children. Nutritious food will be provided to pregnant

women. He added that resources of social institutes, industrial units and temples would be used for betterment of angan-

wadis. For safe child birth, ad equate facilities will be provided to pregnant women who reach hospitals from remote areas before their de-

livery date. All the anganwadis will be run in government buildings in all districts of the state. At the meeting, it was informed that through 57 one stop centres, help to women in distress will be provided.

#### Six booked for molesting minor girl, thrashing brother

A group of six miscreants al-

legedly molested a 17-year-old

**Our Staff Reporter** 

girl and thrashed her brother. who came to her rescue. The incident occurred late on Monday night in Sanchar Nagar under Kanadiya police station limits when the girl was waiting for an auto-rickshaw with her brother and friend to go home. The police registered a case against the accused under sections 74, 118(1), 115(2), 296, 351(2), 3(5) of BNS and 7/8 of POCSO Act on the complaint of the victim. According to the police, the girl told police that she, along with her brother and friend, had gone to her sister s birthday party. While returning home from there, they were

waiting for an auto-rickshaw

in Sanchar Nagar near JMB

Restaurant, when the accused

Rishi, along with his friends

Sachin Sharma, Moksh and

Nanu came in on bikes and

started talking to her with the

intention of teasing her.

### Youth ends life over digital arrest threat Cyber fraudster

threatened to implicate him falsely in Pahalgam terror case

**Our Staff Reporter INDORE** 

A 27-year-old youth committed suicide in Hira Nagar police station area on Tuesday after allegedly being mentally tortured by a cyber fraudster who threatened to implicate him falsely in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The fraudster reportedly digitally arrested him and demanded money, claiming that

a terror mission. The deceased was identified as Anurag Gajbhiye, a resident of Veena Nagar. According to the family members, he had been ac-

if the payment wasn t made,

he would be falsely linked to

tively searching for jobs online and spent most of his time browsing the internet for employment opportun-

They said he began behav ing unusually and often spoke about being offered a secret agent job by the Indian government, where he was allegedly instructed to conceal his identity.

Anurag had reportedly told relatives that someone online had tricked him and taken his account details and digital signatures. When Anurag couldn't pay the money demanded, the fraudster threatened to falsely frame him in the Pahalgam terror incident. Under extreme psycho-

logical pressure, Anurag began fearing for his life, even expressing paranoia that passing cars outside his house could be surveillance vehicles and someone could kill him. The constant fear and manipulation led him to take the extreme step.

#### Vet shortage hits ABC centres amid NGO exit, funds delay 'Arrangement year. These centres function The move has drawn sharp abrupt withdrawal of services

**Our Staff Reporter BHOPAL** 

A dispute between Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and an NGO has triggered an acute shortage of veterinary doctors at Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres in the city. The issue stems from the

by the NGO managing the Kajlikheda ABC centre in February, leaving BMC scrambling to manage operations. Currently, Bhopal has three centres—Karariya, ABC

Adampur and Kajlikheda which collectively sterilise nearly 20,000 stray dogs every

with NGO partnerships, but the Kajlikheda fallout has forced the BMC to divert limited manpower. As a temporary solution, Dr. Saurabh, who was already heading the Karariya centre, has been given additional charge of the Kajlikheda unit.

criticism from animal welfare activists and pet lovers, who question the feasibility of one vet managing two high-demand centres. Concerns over post-operative care, rising dog fatalities, and overall mismanagement are being raised loudly.

temporary'

Dr. D.P. Singh, in-charge of all ABC centres under BMC, has refuted these allegations. Speaking to Free Press, he said that the arrangement is temporary, intended to sustain sterilisation work and control costs until new systems are in place.

epaper.freepressjournal.in

### Briefs

#### **Police** personnel suspended

Four police personnel in Muzaffarnagar were suspended for allegedly coercing a temple Mahant to give large sums of money. The Mahant had filed a complaint with SSP Abhishek Singh, providing call recordings as evidence. A preliminary inquiry was ordered, and further action will be taken against guilty officers. Mahant Sukhram of the Nath sect's Shiva temple in Harsauli filed a complaint on Sunday with SSP Abhishek Singh, prompting an investigation.

#### **PRAYGRAJ**

#### **UP** board penalize absent teachers

The Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Board is investigating around 30,000-35,000 teachers who skipped evaluation duties despite serving as room invigilators during exams. The board will take strict action against those found guilty, including possible registration of criminal cases. Approximately 1,48,667 teachers were appointed as evaluators for the evaluation of about 2.84 crore answer sheets across 261 centres.

#### AGRA **DRDO** develops parachutes

The Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra has developed a parachute system for the Gaganyaan programme's uncrewed mission. The system comprises 10 parachutes designed for sequential deployment to ensure the safe return of the astronaut-carrying capsule. The parachutes have cleared sub-level testing and will be used for the mission.

#### **KAUSHAMBI**

#### Jail sets up open-air gym

Kaushambi district jail has launched an open-air gym to promote physical health and well-being among its over 800 inmates and jail staff. The initiative is part of a state government project to set up open gyms in all 75 jails across Uttar Pradesh. Over 800 inmates lodged at the Kaushambi district jail will benefit from yoga, physical training, skill development, literacy, and other activities.

#### **PILIBHIT**

#### Man kills injured leopardess

Wildlife activists have raised concerns over the delay in action against a man who allegedly assaulted an injured leopardess with an axe in Pilibhit. Despite video evidence, activists accuse the forest department of inaction and allege the accused is being protected. They accused the Pilibhit forest division of inaction and wrote to UP's principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife), Anuradha Vemuri, while also filing complaints via the CM's

#### SHAHJAHANPUR

grievance portal.

#### 6-year-old raped at wedding

A six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by an unidentified person during a wedding ceremony in Shahjahanpur district. The girl was found covered in blood after going missing during the event. Police have registered a case and formed teams to identify and arrest the accused.

### STF RETALIATION | City witnesses patriotic fervour following India's POK airstrike

### Operation sindoor: "Ye Hai Naya Bharat, Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega"

**Hasan Zaidi** 

LUCKNOW

Following the Indian Air Force's targeted airstrike in Pakistan occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor, Lucknow erupted in spontaneous celebrations, alongside state organized emergency preparedness drills. The airstrike, seen as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack, triggered widespread patriotic displays and mock readiness exercises across the city.

waving the tricolour, chanting slogans such as "Indian Army Zindabad." At prominent spots like Aminabad, Chowk, and the 1090 crossing, traders and citizens distributed sweets and raised slogans in support of the armed forces. Organizations such as the Adarsh Vyapar Mandal and Hindu outfits led solidarity marches, displaying banners like "Ye Naya Bharat Hai Ghar Mein Ghuske Marega."

Amid celebrations, civil defence teams conducted coordinated mock drills to simulate and cover their ears in religious leaders welcomed the



sounded throughout the police line precincts, initiating blackout rehearsals. Civilians, including schoolchildren, were

air raid scenarios. Sirens response to simulated bombings. Emergency protocols included firefighting demos and triage for mock casualties, with ambulance evacuations instructed to lie on the ground enacted in real-time. Muslim

strike. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali and Maulana Yasoob Abbas praised the operwhole world was watching; India responded decisively,"

also held at Darul Uloom Firangi and Lucknow ation, calling it a fitting University, where NCC cadets response to terrorism. "The and students learned wartime safety procedures. At the Charbagh railway station, high

#### **Red alert in UP after operation sindoor**

A red alert has been declared across Uttar Pradesh following Operation Sindoor, in which Indian forces struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK. In view of potential retaliatory threats, all UP Police field units have been ordered to DGP intensify surveillance and coordinate with **Prashant** defence forces. Security has been tightened around key infrastructure, religious sites, and public gatherings as precautionary measures. Authorities remain on high alert to prevent any untoward incident.

#### My entire family had full faith our forces

"I want to thank Prime Minister Modi. the ministers, and the heads of the armed forces including the Air Force and the Army Chief for avenging my husband's death in the Pahalgam terror attack." "I and my entire family had full faith in Prime Minister Modi and our armed forces, and the way they attacked the terrorist structures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied

Ashanya wife of martyr Shubham Dwivedi Kashmir (PoK) has reinforced our faith."

alert was declared, with DRMsaid Abbas. Mock drills were level inspections carried out on ticket counters and platforms.

Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal echoed public sentiment, stating, "We don't provoke, but we won't tolerate provocation." As Lucknow oscillated between synergy.

vigilance and celebration, Operation Sindoor marked both a geopolitical statement and a moment of national unity. The city's response, marked by drills and discipline reflected a new phase of civil-military

#### **Six of family** killed in **Jalaun crash**

**UP State Bureau** 

JALAUN

A devastating road accident on NH-27 near Girthan village in Jalaun claimed six lives early Wednesday morning. A car carrying eight members of a family from Bahraich collided head-on with an oncoming truck after breaking the road divider around 5:30 am.

The deceased include Dr. Brijesh from Motipur, his wife son Attashay, daughters Manvi and Siddika, and sister-in-law Sangeeta. Two others Dr. Brijesh's Manda and daughter Sangeeta's husband Ankit were critically injured and referred to Kanpur after initial treatment in the district hospital. Manvi died en route to Kanpur.

### "Those who touched sindoor face erasure" UP extends food



**UP State Bureau** LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said "those who tried to touch the sindoor of India's daughters lost their bloodlines." His remarks came while praising the military response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack during an emergency preparedness mock drill in Lucknow. Calling the Army's

Operation that Sindoor symbolised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's and the Indian Armed Forces' deep commitment to protecting women and the country's dignity. "No one will be allowed to tamper with the pride of the nation," Yogi stated. He issued a stern warning that conspirators against Bharat Mata will face consequences. "The country comes first. Every locality, village, and city must action "decisive," the CM be ready to respond when

national security is threatened," he said. Yogi also urged greater public participation in disaster and security response. "Not just NCC, Home Guards, or Scouts—every citizen must engage with security agencies and understand their responsibilities," he added. The CM expressed gratitude to the three armed forces, PM Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Union Cabinet, offering condolences for those martyred in Pahalgam.

were among those present.

Held at the Reserve Police Lines, the mock drill simulated enemy airstrikes and included coordinated responses from NDRF, SDRF, fire services, and medical teams. Citizens were taught how to shelter, treat the injured, and manage chemical threats. Minister Suresh Khanna, Home Secretary Sanjay Prasad, DGP Prashant Kumar, ADG Amitabh Yash, Commissioner Amarendra Sengar, and DM Vishakha G

#### licensing drive **UP State Bureau All UP food**

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has extended its ongoing statewide food registration and licensing campaign till May 31. Led by the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), the drive aims to bring all food business operators, from vendors to restaurants, under

legal compliance. Launched in April following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, the campaign mandates that every food business in the state must hold a valid registration or license under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Special camps are being held in every district to facilitate documentation. Food Safety Officers are conducting outreach and spot registration to ensure broad coverage. However, the government acknowledges that despite

businesses required to register by May 31 deadline

sections of the informal food sector remain unregistered, highlighting gaps in sustained monitoring. The FSDA has warned of strict enforcement after the May 31 deadline. The campaign includes awareness drives, compliance checks, and on-ground assistance for business owners. Though the CM has emphasized zero tolerance toward non-compliance, critics argue that periodic crackdowns alone may not build long-term adherence without addressing manpower constraints and lack of digital access in rural belts. Authorities state the campaign is intended not only for regulation but also to safeguard public health through clean, accountable previous campaigns, large food practices statewide.

#### **Knife attack** over sindoor talk

**UP State Bureau** SHAHJAHANPUR

Shahjahanpur's Powayan, 12year-old Surjeet, son of Lalbahadur Dharmgadpur Khurd, was attacked with a knife by a man who grew agitated during a conversation about India's Operation Sindoor.

The attacker, reportedly from Katra Bazaar locality, also shouted pro-Pakistan slogans in the crowded vegetable market before being caught and handed over to police by bystanders.

The man's violent reaction rooted appears instability and personal does not reflect the sentiments of any particular community.

### 25 lakh new farmers to get Kisan credit cards in UP soon

**UP State Bureau** LUCKNOW

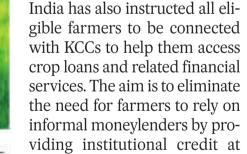
In a disturbing incident in In a major push to boost agricultural income and make farming more profitable, the Uttar from

Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to expand the reach of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. For the financial year 2025-26, the state aims to provide KCCs to 25 lakh new farmers, ensuring easier access to timely and affordable credit. The initiative builds on the success of the previous year, where over 71 lakh farmers across the state were issued Kisan Credit Cards. To meet the new target, the state has directed all Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates to expedite the registration and distribu-



Yogi government issues credit cards to over 71 lakh farmers in just one year

The government is prioritizing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana beneficiaries for inclusion in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. With support from cooperative and commercial banks, the distribution process is being fasttracked to ensure wider outreach. The Government of



low interest rates. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the need to transform agriculture into a profitable venture and uplift the standard of living in rural areas. The KCC scheme plays a key role in this mission by offering timely financial support to farmers and reinforcing the state's commitment to a selfreliant and prosperous agrarian economy. Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, there has been an increase in the distribution of crop loans.

#### hails 'Operation Sindoor'

**Minister Danish** 

**UP State Bureau** LUCKNOW

Lucknow witnessed emotional scenes of unity and patriotism on Wednesday as students and teachers of UP State Bureau Darul Uloom Farangi Mahal gathered at Aishbagh Eidgah to cheer the Indian Army's precision strikes under Operation Sindoor. The air resounded with slogans of "Hindustan Zindabad" and "Indian Army Zindabad," as they waved the national flag in support of the armed

The operation, carried out in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK. According to reports, several militants centered around the Tharu were neutralized.

### Uttar Pradesh targets ecoreligious tourism boom

LUCKNOW

The UP government is moving ahead with plans to establish the state as a key eco and religious tourism hub, with projects underway in Lakhimpur Kheri to support both nature tourism and cultural engagement. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, infrastructure will be developed near Chandan Chowki and Sharda Barrage to support tent cities, water sports, eco lodges, and immersive experiences community. Two new hubs will

Eco lodges, glamping, water sports planned near Dudhwa, Sharda Barrage

cater to visitors of Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary. Cultural performances, homestays, and exhibitions will offer tourists deeper insight into Tharu life. The initiative is part of the state's broader tourism policy, which includes the Ramayana and Buddhist circuits and the 'One District, One Destination' scheme.

#### tion process. shaktirise

### India's daughters: The strength Pakistan can never comprehend

**Pankaj Srivastava** LUCKNOW

In the early hours of Wednesday, what the world witnessed wasn't merely an airstrike. it was a clear declaration of India's strategic might, unwavering vision, and iron-clad resolve. But what made this operation historic was not just its execution, it was the leaders behind it. This time, India's daughters led from the front not just as participants, but as commanding architects of the

Women Behind the Strike Colonel Sophia Oureshi

mission.



Colonel Sophia Qureshi

A name that resonates with pride across the Indian Armed Forces. She became the first Indian woman to lead an international military exercise, commanding troops from 18 different nations during the prestig-



Vyomika Singh

ious 'Force 18' drills. Today, she stands as the strategic backbone of Operation Sindoor, a mission that shook Pakistan's defense structure to its core. Her leadership, vision, and grit played a pivotal role in

Not Just an Airstrike. A **Declaration of** Power, Vision, and Resolve

the operation's success. Wing Commander Vvomika Singh

A fearless officer in the Indian Air Force, Wing Commander Singh isn't just known for flying fighter jets she's known for leading them in complex missions with unflinching precision. Her aerial combat expertise and tactical

command turned the tide of Operation Sindoor, proving that the skies are no longer male territory they belong to every Indian who dares, especially our daughters.

India vs Pakistan: A Contrast in Mindset

In India, we entrust daughters with borders, commands, and national strategy. In Pakistan, women still struggle to access basic education, let alone enter the military. In India, a woman commands troops from 18 countries. In Pakistan, a man's silence is valued more than a woman's voice. That is the difference, One nation

#### This is India

- Where daughters don't just dream they achieve.
- Where they don't just march they lead.
- Where they don't just guard the borders they become the shield of the nation.

As the world watches, India's daughters are proving that strength isn't always measured in missiles and machines sometimes, it's measured in courage, competence, and commitment.

empowers its daughters. The other hides them behind cur-

India's daughters are no longer bound by societal chains they're now breaking barriers,

commanding missions, and scripting history. This isn't just a moment of pride; it's a message to the world a country that trusts its women can never be defeated.

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**MYSURU** 

#### MP: India must keep hitting Pak



Mysuru Member of Parliament Yaduveer Wadiyar on Wednesday welcomed the nation's military attack on Pakistan and said it should not be a one-time measure but should be resorted to whenever the neighbouring nation uses terrorists to weaken In-

Speaking to reporters, he stressed that the nation and all political party leaders must be united in this hour of crisis and must support the decisions taken by Prime Minister Modi for initiating strikes against terrorist camps in neighbouring Pakistan.

India must continue destroying terrorist campss without causing damage to civilians in both Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, he stressed.

#### **RAICHUR** Mock drill conducted by **Railways**



A mock drill was conducted by the Civil Defence team from the South Central Railway, Guntakal Division to Raichur Railway Station. The Civil Defence team of more than 30 people carried out the mock operation to create awareness about the protection of citizens during war-like attacks.

Using Lakshmi bombs and smoke bombs, awareness was created on how people should protect themselves, how officials should be alert, and how to rescue the injured stepby-step and provide first aid. The mock drill was conducted under the leadership of K. Sudarshan Reddy, Division Civil Defence Emergency Officer.

#### **KARWAR** Security up at Karwar naval base



Following India's Operation Sindoor operation on Pakistani militant bases, security has been increased at Kadamba Naval Base and the port in Karwar.

The Coast Guard has also intensified combing operations in the Arabian Sea, and restrictions have been imposed on foreign cruise ships arriving at Karwar port if they have Pakistani or Chinese crew members. Coastal Guard police are conducting intense inspections of ships arriving at the port. Fishing boats are also being inspected. Fishermen have been instructed not to go beyond 12 nautical miles and have been instructed against going into the deep sea for fishing.

#### **CHITRADURGA**

#### More than 100 take ill due to food poisoning

More than 100 people have fallen ill due to food poisoning after consuming food at a wedding in Mallihalli village, Hosadurga taluk in Chitradurga district.

The incident occurred on Monday during the wedding celebration of Prabhulingappa's son in Mallihalli village. The wedding took place on Sunday at Gavirangapura hill. From Monday morning, those who attended the wedding started experiencing stomach pain. They were admitted to hospital with vomiting and diarrhea.

Patients have been admitted to the Srirampura Community Health Center. Due to the beds being full, treatment camps have been organized in the villages surrounding Mallihalli. The incident took place within the limits of Srirampura Police Station.

#### ATTACK ON TERROR

#### Siddu praises precision strikes on Pak

### CM: Salute extraordinary courage of armed forces

tion in expressing unwa-

vering solidarity with our

forces. We are proud of

your valour, sacrifice, and

unflinching commitment to

protect our sovereignty," he

Later, speaking to re-

porters, Siddaramaiah said

his government would fully

support the central govern-

added.

**NT Correspondent** 

**BENGALURU** 

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday saluted the armed forces for conducting precision strikes on Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor' to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed.

"Terror has no place in our land, and India will respond with strength and unity," he said, warning that the country will not hesitate to wage war against Pakistan if it launches a counterattack.

"I salute the extraordinary courage of our armed forces behind 'Operation Sindoor'. Their heroic action reaffirms that India will never tolerate terror in any form," Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

Stating that the brutal at-

tack in Pahalgam was not just on innocent lives but an assault on the dreams and spirit of India, he said, "Every effort by our brave soldiers is a pledge to bring justice to the victims, their families, and to every Indian who believes in peace and humanity."

"Karnataka joins the na-

ment and ensure that all precautionary measures are taken in the state.

Following the strikes on terror bases, the state Congress cancelled its "Samvidhan Bachao (Save the constitution) and Anti-Price Rise Rally" scheduled in Raichur today, which was aimed against the central government.

"At this juncture, it would be inappropriate to protest against the central government's policies. So, we have cancelled the rally, for the sake of our soldiers and in support of the attack on terror bases," he said, appealing to the people of the state to stand with the central government at this critical time.

He noted that mock drills aimed at keeping the state alert would be held in Bengaluru today and later in places like Mysuru, Uttara Kannada, and Raichur. The CM stressed that

national security is paramount and cannot be compromised.

"In such a situation, we will stand one hundred per cent with the country," he affirmed.

Pointing out that Pakistan continues to support terrorists and their activities, the Chief Minister said he fully supports the Central government and the defence forces' attack on Pakistan.

"This is a wake-up call for Pakistan. Indian forces have identified terror bases and attacked them, ensuring that innocent civilians are not harmed. I salute their efficiency

and expertise and extend full support to the armed forces on behalf of my government, the state, and the people.

#### Stepstakentosecure vitalinstallations: HM

**NT Correspondent** 

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the state government has initiated action based on Central advisories regarding measures to be taken amid rising tensions with Pakistan and initiated steps to protect vital installations curity," he added. including dams and indus-

jets targeted terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistansaid that as a political parernment.

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said that on ment's decision".

time like this, everyone meshwara said. should speak with one concerning the nation's se- concerning security.

He said the state government has received advi-Welcoming 'Operation sories from the Ministry of Sindoor', where Indian Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"So, we have started

occupied Kashmir (PoK) implementing those. Toearly on Wednesday, he day, we are initiating programmes. We have taken ty, they stand with the gov- special interest in securing major installations--be it power stations, irrigation dams, or industries-- we behalf of Congress party, are taking steps to protect "we support the govern- them. These advisories have come from the Gov-"This is a matter of na- ernment of India, and we tional security, and at a are acting on them," Para-

The minister added that voice. We fully support Superintendents of Police the government's and our have been informed and military forces' actions instructed to remain alert

#### Terror attack victim's kin welcome Op Sindoor terrorist camps in Pakistan.



**NT Correspondent** 

BENGALURU

The family of Bharath Bhushan, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said government has done a good job and that they stay in support of them.

**NT Correspondent** 

In the wake of the precision

strikes on Pakistan under

'Operation Sindoor', Kar-

nataka Endowment Min-

ister Ramalinga Reddy on

Wednesday directed that

special prayers be organ-

ised in all temples under

BENGALURU

Bhushan from Bengaluru, who was visiting Pahalgam with his wife and three-year-old son, was shot dead by terrorists on April 22. His wife, Sujatha, and their child survived the attack.

Bushan's father Channaveerappa said he heard the news at 6 am that the airforce has attacked the

Special prayers for armed forces at

Endowment Dept temples in K'taka

tutions and Charitable En-

dowments Department, for

the well-being of the Indian

"In retaliation for the Pa-

halgam massacre, the Indi-

an Armed Forces attacked

terrorist camps in Pakistan.

As part of this, I have or-

dered special poojas to be

Armed Forces.

the Hindu Religious Insti- held in all Muzrai (endow-

"They have attacked and killed I heard but still some more people are escaping. Government has to take steps to kill them also," he

told PTI videos.

Appreciating ment's effort, he said, "The name, 'Operation Sindoor' is correct because they have removed the tilak of many women. That's a good step. Government has done a good work and they have also taken the support of many countries."

"Pakistan is sheltering terrorists in their hideouts, giving them money. They are supported and trained by Pakistan's army. Modi has taken this message to different countries and explained Pakistan's dirty operation," he added.

ment) temples across the

state," Reddy posted on 'X'.

proud Indian Armed Forc-

es for their operation, all

temples under the Reli-

gious Endowments Depart-

ment have been directed to

perform special pujas," a

"Congratulating

circular said.

#### mom says she had faith in PM **NT Correspondent** SHIVAMOGGA

Sumathi, the mother of Manjunath Rao, a Pahalgam terror attack victim, welcomed the air strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan on Wednesday and said she had faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She also said that she did not want her son's "sacrifice" to go waste.

She said, it is not a feeling of satisfaction, as her son who has killed won't come back, but such things should not happen to others' children.

Pahalgam attack victim's

"We had faith that Modi will take right decision and accordingly he has taken. Nothing should happen to innocents, but those who try to oppress or indulge in roguery against us should not be spared. My son's sacrifice should not go waste. I feel that the right decision



has been taken," Sumathi told PTI videos.

"We knew that something will be done. We are common people and not big to

give suggestions to leaders. We had faith in Modi. It is not a feeling of satisfaction, because my son who has gone won't come back, but such things should not happens to others' children in the future, everyone should be able to travel freely," she added.

Manjunath Rao and Bharath Bushan from Karnataka were among the 26 people killed in front of their families in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

### Mock drill held as part of 'Operation Abhyas' in B'luru

**NT Correspondent** 

**BENGALURU** 

Authorities on Wednesday carried out a large scale civil defence mock drill at various locations in the city under 'Operation Abhyas' in line with the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The drill was part of a nationwide preparedness exercise ordered by the MHA.

According to officials, soon after the siren blew at 3.48 pm in various locations, the civil defence personnel,

police, fire and emergency services personnel swung into action.

The drill included rescue operations in the event of fire, removing people from beneath the debris, evacuation of people from high rises and medical emergency services. The drill went on for about half-an-hour.

As per the direction of MHA to conduct Civil Defence Exercise called "Operation Abhyaas" first mock drill was conducted at premises of Director Gen-



eral, Civil Defence at 4 pm. Similar exercises were

conducted in some other places like Raichur.

dies at 94

Writer-poet

Siddalingaiah

### Cong posts Gandhi quote emphasising peace, deletes

**NT Correspondent** 

BENGALURU

The Karnataka unit of Congress on Wednesday posted a Mahatma Gandhi's quote emphasising peace on its social media handle and deleted it later.

"The most powerful weapon of mankind is peace - Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress posted on its handle in social media 'X'. They posted it hours after

India carried out air strike at nine locations inside Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) as part of its 'Operatioon Sindoor'

to avenge the killing of 26 tourists in a terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party later lauded the Indian Air Force in another

"The Indian Air Force (IAF), widely recognised as one of the world's strongest air forces gave a befitting reply to the cowardly #PahalgamTerroristAttack. We stand with the govt, we stand with our security forces. #OperationSindoor," Congress said.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress state president D K Shivakumar called India's response to Pahalgam "befitting".

"#OperationSindoor is a befitting reply to the cowardly Pahalgam terror attack. We stand with the govt, we stand with our security forces. Jai Hind," Shivakumar said in a post on 'X'.

The BJP state chief Vijavendra flayed the Congress saving every Indian welcomes India's action. "We feel proud and stand by Indian soldiers but unfortunately the Congress in Karnataka is advocating peace at this juncture," he told reporters.

# B'luru Airport issues advisory, cancels flights

**NT Correspondent** 

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport on Wednesday issued a passenger advisory stating that due to prevailing airspace restrictions, some flights have been cancelled on May 7.

to verify their flight status with their respective airlines before heading to the Kempegowda International Airport. The

It requested passengers

came after India's precision strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occu-



pied Kashmir.

strictions.

All passengers are re- airport said on 'X'.

quested to please check di-"We're expecting impact rectly with your airline for announcement on some flights across our the latest information. You network due to airspace re- can also find timely updates on their (X) pages," the BLR

### IIT Dharwad gets approval for expansion

**NT Correspondent** 

**NEW DELHI** 

The Union Cabinet has approved a major infrastructure and academic capacity expansion project for five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), including IIT Dharwad in Karnataka, at an estimated cost of ₹11,828.79 crore.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi announced that the decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

ers IITs located in Dharwad (Karnataka), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), and Palakkad (Kerala). The initiative aims to enhance infrastructure to support over 6,500 students across these institutes.

The expansion plan cov-

The project also includes the establishment of five new state-of-the-art research parks to strengthen industry-academia collaboration.

The development plan will be implemented over a four-year period.



#### **NT Correspondent** BENGALURU Noted writer and poet GS Siddalingaiah passed

away at a private hospital here on Tuesday night due to age-related issues. He was 94. He is survived by his wife. According to fam-

ily sources, the last rites were performed at the Lingayat crematorium in Chamarajpet, Bengaluru, on Wednesday afternoon. Born in 1931 in Bellavi village of Tumakuru district, Siddalingaiah completed his education locally up to college level and earned his BA (honours) and MA in Kannada with

first class. He began his career as a Kannada lecturer at the Government Arts College in Chitradurga and later served as principal in various colleges and as Director of Collegiate

Education. He also served as the president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat.

He was the recipient of

Sahitya Akademi's special honour, Rajyotsava Award, Basava Award, Masti Award, among oth-

### 'Gastrointestinal cancers on the rise in India, Karnataka' more cases where patients

### **NT Correspondent**

Consultant - Surgical Gastroenterology, Manipal Hospital Mysuru Dr. Vasudeva Pai H on Wednesday said that India and Karnataka too are witnessing an alarming surge in gastrointestinal (GI)

cancers in recent years. Speaking to reporters at an interactive meet, he said hospitals in Karnataka are reporting a steep rise in latestage presentations of cancers affecting the esophagus (food pipe), stomach, colon, rectum, liver and pancreas as per available data.

also highlighted the need to treatment options. raise public awareness and



testinal cancer.

He shared some valuable insights on common gastro-Many of them could have intestinal cancers, identifybeen treated more effective- ing early symptoms, diagly if diagnosed earlier. He nostic tests, and available

Highlighting how the maurge people not to ignore jority of GI cancers are deearly signs and symptoms tected in late stages Dr. Pai that could indicate gastroin- stated, "GI cancers affect

esophagus, stomach, colon, lies in the delay.

multiple parts of the diges-

rectum, pancreas, liver, gall back pain (pancreatic canbladder, and small intestine. cer), blood in stools (colon/ What starts off as common rectal cancer), jaundice (bile indigestion, bloating, or loss duct or liver cancer). of appetite may be an early

Dr. Pai noted that many insign of GI cancer. The danger dividuals often ignore their

We are seeing more and medical intervention. epaper.freepressjournal.in

come to us when curative treatment is no longer possible." Explaining the causes and risk factors Dr. Pai listed to-

bacco and alcohol use, diets high in fat and low in fiber, obesity, chronic liver disease, and genetic predisposition as significant contributing factors. He also listed the impor-

tant early warning signs that often go unnoticed or are misdiagnosed such as difficulty in swallowing (esophageal cancer), persistent tive system, including the vomiting or early satiety (stomach/small intestine),

initial symptoms and delay

#### NEWS in **SHORTS**

HYDFRABAD



#### **Police** Commissioner distributes Traffic kits to police personnel

yderabad City Police Commissioner C V Anand distributed Traffic Kit articles to the Traffic Police. New hats were also provided to the Police. These new hats are being introduced to replace the existing ones, which were found to be uncomfortable during the summer season. The new design aims to improve comfort and usability for officers on duty in high temperatures. CP appreciated the dedicated efforts of the traffic personnel. He urged them to continue improving their efficiency and commitment to ensuring smooth traffic management in the city. The Commissioner informed that a drone has been provided to the Hyderabad Traffic Branch. This drone will be used for traffic analysis and monitoring, with the goal of providing hassle-free and efficient traffic flow in the city. Informed to take the help of the Google team

#### **HYDERABAD**

muters.



for better traffic manage-

flow of traffic to the com-

ment for providing free

#### Cybercrime DCP Sribala deputed to UN Mission, given grand farewell

yberabad Cybercrime → DCP B Sribala has been deputed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for a oneyear assignment, in recognition of her outstanding service in cyber law enforcement. During her tenure, she led several key operations targeting cyber fraud, financial scams, and online harassment, while also launching impactful digital literacy campaigns to promote cyber safety among students, professionals, and the general public. Her proactive initiatives and leadership have earned her national recognition, and her deputation marks a proud moment for the Telangana Police and the nation. Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty along with other senior DCPs, bid her a grand farewell, congratulating her on the prestigious international assignment. Her service

### **RAJANNA SIRCILLA**

widely appreciated.

and leadership have been

#### Shepherd dies by suicide in Rajanna Sircilla

A23-year-old shepherd Oggu Mahesh died by suicide in Yellareddypet mandal on Wednesday. According to family members, Deceased Mahesh ended his life by hanging himself in an agricultural well located behind his home. The exact reason for his suicide is not yet known. Knowing about the incident, local police visited the spot and began investigation by registering the case. Body was shifted to hospital for postmortem.

### Mock drills conducted across Hyderabad

To build awareness, improve preparedness in the event of an actual hostile attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

A series of civil defence and fire safety mock drills held across various locations including Secunderabad, Golconda, Nacharam NFC area, and Kanchanbagh. Additional mock drills were conducted at Mehdipatnam, Mallapur, Rein Bazar, Moula Ali and Cyber tower junction on Wednesday.

The mock drill was held as per instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amid rising tensions with Pakistan post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead.

Air raid alert Sirens were activated at 4pm within the Outer Ring Road (ORR), signaling the start of the drill. Citizens were instructed to stay indoors, seek shelter, and take cover.

As Hyderabad conducted rare air raids and civil defence mock drills, residents were advised to follow key safety protocols during the two-minute war siren.

Rescue personnel evacuated people from buildings using ropes, provided medical aid, and shifted the 'injured' during the operations. Sirens were sounded again at 4.30 pm to mark the end of the drills.

Senior police officials moni-



#### Here's what citizens were expected to do during the emergency

- Upon hearing the siren, people were instructed to vacate open areas and take shelter in sturdy buildings and underground shelters.
- Citizens were advised to stay tuned to official sources like TV, radio, or government mobile apps for real-time updates and instructions.

tored the mock drills from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) build-

ing in Banjara Hills. The mock drill in HyderaPublic urged not to circulate or act on unverified information

Those at home were told to turn off all the electrical appliances, gas connections, and extinguish open flames such as stoves or fireplaces.

bad is intended to build awareness, improve preparedness, and reduce loss of life and property in the event of an actual hostile attack.

#### **Capacity** building training for every government employee: Babu

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced that all government employees from grassroots-level workers to top bureaucrats—will undergo mandatory capacity building training.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on state planning, Swarnandhra Vision, and **Gross State Domestic Product** (GSDP), Naidu emphasized that structured training—both online and offline—is essential to enhance skills and performance across government departments.

"From agriculture officers to secretaries, and constables to DGPs, capacity building must become an institutionalized process. I personally continue to focus on learning new things daily—be it through technology or management practices. This is how governance evolves." Naidu said. Under the Zero Poverty P4 initiative, 15,315 "Golden Families" have been adopted by 1,118 trained mentors across the state. To institutionalize the program, the state government is forming the Swarnandhra P4 Foundation, with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The foundation will comprise a 25-member General Body, supported by an Executive Committee and Empowered Teams.

### Babu hails Indian Armed Forces for avenging Pahalgam attack

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive action in avenging the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, commending their bravery and precision in targeted strikes across Pakistan and Pakistanoccupied Kashmir (PoK).

In a strongly worded message, CM Naidu declared, "With pride. I salute the brave warriors of the Indian Armed Forces for swiftly avenging the Pahalgam terror attack. With their unmatched bravery and precision, they have once again demonstrated that our nation will defend itself with an iron will."

The Chief Minister was one among the political leaders to publicly commend the military's counter-terrorism operation. Taking to social media platform X, Naidu shared a patriotic "Jai Hind!" shortly after reports of the successful strikes emerged, becoming one of the earliest voices to recognize the Armed Forces' efforts.

In a follow-up post, Naidu extended his tribute not only to the Armed Forces but also to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his leadership for the swift and bold response. "Today, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji. the world has witnessed our



#### Entire country waiting for revenge on terrorists: Pawan Kalyan

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan

Kalyan said on Wednesday that the whole country was waiting for revenge for the terrorist attack in that Pahalgam killed 26 civilians and tried to undermine the integrity of India. Speaking at a press conference at his residence in Hyderabad, he welcomed "Op-

strength and determination," he wrote, adding that the country stands united in its fight against terrorism. "Our country stands united against terror and firmly in support of our Armed Forces," Naidu emphasized, underscoring a message of national solidarity and resilience in the face of extremist threats.

eration Sindoor" and said that it should not stop till the last terrorist is eliminated.

Reiterating that Kashmir is an integral part of India, he expressed his anguish about how Kashmiri Pandits were killed by Pakistan backed terrorists. He recalled about how there have been bomb blasts in Lumbini Park, Gokul Chat and other areas.

The Indian Armed Forces' operation is seen as a powerful message to adversaries following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of several Indian security personnel. Political leaders across party lines have hailed the response, reflecting broad national support for counterterror efforts.

### Gold medals for top medical students

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVATI

In a significant step toward strengthening the medical profession in Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Daggumati Srihari Rao officially assumed charge as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) at the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences on Wednes-

Soon after taking charge of the Medical Council he said that it would function as a strict regulatory authority, ensuring accountability and swift action on malpractice complaints.

Among the key initiatives announced was the decision to award gold medals to medical students who excel academically at both the university and college levels.

In a major administrative reform, the APMC will now require all doctors in the state to renew their registration once every five years. To simplify the process, the council will introduce an online slot

booking system. After verification, registration certificates will be dispatched via registered post, reducing delays and improving accessibility.

Dr. Srihari also addressed

the issue of foreign medical graduates seeking registration in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that registrations will be permitted strictly as per the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC). While some states have adopted relaxed norms, Andhra Pradesh is currently evaluating similar possibilities to ensure fairness without compromising standards.

The council is also considering easing credit hour requirements for doctors above the age of 70, recognizing their years of service and practical limitations. In addition, Dr. Sriharirao warned that stern action would be taken against individuals practicing medicine using fake degrees or forged documents, stating that such malpractice will not be tolerated.

### Detain Pakistan, Bangladesh nationals residing illegally in Telangana: CM Revanth

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed the police officials to detain Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals who are residing illegally in the State.

"A communication system should be established in the command control center. Strict action will be taken against those who disturb peace and security," Revanth Reddy said. The Chief Minister held an

emergency meeting with officials at the Command Control Center here on Wednesday in the wake of Operation Sin-

Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, DGP Jitender, Home Secretary Ravi Gupta, other officials from Army, Police, Disaster Management and other related departments were present.

During the meeting, Revanth Reddy emphasised that a strong message of supporting Indian Army by the entire



nation should be rolled out and politics should not take place and parties maintain restraint in the difficult times.

The Chief Minister directed that leaves of the employees of all departments which engage in the emergency services should be cancelled and all employees should be ready to render services. The Ministers and officials should also be available and cancel all foreign trips, if any, he said.

The Chief Minister further stated that strict action should be initiated if government employees make controversial statements in the media and

social media, adding that a toll-free round the clock number will be provided for the people.

The officials concerned have been asked to stockpile blood in Blood banks and emergency medicine for emergency needs. Information about the availability of beds in the private hospitals should be updated from time to time.

"Officials should strength coordination with the Red Cross. Food stocks should also be made sufficient. Moreover, police officials should enhance vigilance about cyber security

Over 57,000 Government positions

and warned of stringent action against those who peddle fake news. Officials should set up special cell to curb fake news which could cause to create anxiety and panic among people," Revanth Reddy said.

Police authorities were also directed to connect all CC cameras to the command control room in the three Police commissionerates in the Greater Hyderabad City.

He further stated that steps should be taken to improve surveillance and enhance security in all district headquarters and sensitive areas. Tighten security at all Foreign Consulates in Hyderabad. Enhance security measures at all IT companies, the Chief Minister said.

He also instructed Hyderabad police to be on high alert and hold talks with Peace Committees, if necessary. The police department should also keep an eye on the moments of history sheeters and old criminals, the Chief Minister added.

#### Mega job fair in Hyderabad

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is set to host a landmark job fair, offering a unique platform for unemployed youth in Telangana to secure promising career opportunities, announced Dundra Kumaraswamy, National President of BC Dal. Organised jointly by Deccan Blaster Mannan Khan and Bliss Berg Future of Hope, the job fair will take place at Kaja Mansion Function Hall in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

The event was inaugurated by chief guests Dundra Kumaraswamy and Dr Vinay Sarikonda. Over 100 reputed companies will conduct interviews at the fair, providing job opportunities to eligible candidates across diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals, healthcare, IT, education, and banking.

In addition, a free medical camps during the event will be held. Renowned doctors will provide complimentary health check-ups and advice.

### Swiss ambassador visits AP Secretariat, lauds RTGS

METRO INDIA NEWS | AMARAVAT

Switzerland's Ambassador to India, Maya Tissafi, commended the Andhra Pradesh government's Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) during a visit to the state secretariat on Wednesday, calling it an excellent initiative and a model worth emulating by governments worldwide.

"Centralized, real-time monitoring systems like RTGS are critical for responsive governance. The AP government is clearly setting an example for



other Indian states," she said. Through this platform, citizens can access over 290 services directly from their phones, eliminating the need to visit government offices. Plans are underway to scale up to

1,000 services in the near future. Citizens can also submit applications through Whats-App and provide feedback on the quality of services received. Highlighting RTGS's innovative role in environmental monitoring, Prakhar Jain, the Chief Executive Officer of RTGS

said a dedicated "Aware Hub" has been set up within the system to track climate changes and deliver timely alerts to citizens. The platform is also integrating artificial intelligence to further enhance efficiency.

### filled in a year, says Sridhar Babu METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Minister for IT and Industries. Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that the State government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has successfully recruited 57.000 individuals into government service within the span of a year.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new building at Natco Zilla Parishad High School in Kothur of Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday, the Minister said, "Initiatives are underway to introduce digital classrooms across all government schools. with a clear objective to enhance academic standards through a structured, expert-driven approach," Sridhar Babu said.

He emphasised the goal of preparing students in government institutions to perform on par with those in private schools.

"Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence are being integrated into the curriculum to ensure future-readiness.

Teachers have a key role in restoring public trust in government schools. Long-pendpromotions

government teachers have been addressed. Specialised 'Amma Commithave been established to oversee school operations," the Minister said. He also addressed criticism from the opposition, calling it politically motivated and baseless, especially as the gov-

ernment is earnestly working

to deliver every electoral prom-

ise. He questioned the credibility of those who failed to provide housing for the poor over the past decade but now seek to criticise the current administration. Reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development, the Minister stated that Indiramma housing would be provided to all eligible beneficiaries in a phased manner. The event was attended by Shadnagar MLA K. Shankaraiah and representatives from Natco, including Lakshminaravana and PSRK Prasad.

### **Indian economy outlook for May 2025**

### RBI revises GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

The economic landscape of India in March-April 2025 showcased mixed trends amid a backdrop of global uncertainties. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%, reflecting caution as other global agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF echoed similar downward ad-

The RBI's monetary policy

justments.

retail inflation figures dropping to 3.34%, the lowest in six years. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) demonstrated strong domestic demand despite slow exports, while the Services PMI indicated slight moderation amid competitive pressures.

cut the repo rate to 6%, while

Industrial output for March registered a 3% increase, led by manufacturing and power sectors. The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on



by cement and electricity production, contrasting with declines in energy outputs. A widening trade deficit emerged, reaching \$21.54 billion due to rising oil and gold

The core infrastructure sector grew 3.8%, spurred on by cement and electricity production

imports. Cautious optimism surrounded the overall outlook, balancing between domestic demand dynamics and

epaper.freepressjournal.in

external geopolitical risks that could influence future growth trajectories.

**Key Insights** The downward revision of

GDP forecasts by the RBI, World Bank, and IMF signifies the susceptibility of the Indian economy to global economic conditions. The adjustments reflect concerns regarding geopolitical tensions and trade dynamics. The RBI's decision to adopt a more accom-

modative monetary policy underscores a strategic effort to mitigate the effects of subdued growth and inflationary pressures. The interest rate cut aims to stimulate investment. increase consumer spending, and alleviate the burden on borrowers, setting the stage for a modest recovery.

Similarly, the notable decrease in retail inflation may lead to improved purchasing power among consumers, potentially stimulating domestic Indian rupee against the dollar, coupled with a stable reserves position, enhances India's capacity to manage external financial obligations and strengthens economic resilience. Despite various pressures and challenges, there remains a potential for robust recovery, provided that the country navigates its resource management, investment strategies, and consumer confidence effectively.

demand. Strengthening of the

Mock drills at

126 centres in

14 districts

At 4:00 PM on Wedn-

esday, all 14 districts of Ke-

rala activated a coordinated

civil defence mock drill, al-

igning with the Union Home

Ministry's directive under

Operation Abhyaas. This

nationwide exercise, the

most extensive since the 1971

India-Pakistan war, aims to

assess and enhance civilian

preparedness in the wake of

escalating tensions between

India and Pakistan follo-

wing the Pahalgam attack

The Kerala State Disaster

Management Authority sp-

earheaded the operation,

integrating air-raid siren

tests, evacuation simul-

ations, and public awar-

eness campaigns. Chief Se-

cretary Dr. A. Javathilak

urged citizens, institutions,

and organisations to par-

ticipate actively, emph-

asising vigilance and the

importance of not succ-

stalled at 86 locations, pri-

marily schools and gove-

rnment buildings. Of these,

83 functioned satisfactorily,

while three experienced

technical issues, which are

umbing to panic.

on April 22.

**HD Bureau** 

### **EMOTIONALLY SUPERCHARGED RESPONSES**

### Ramachandran's daughter hails **Operation Sindoor**

Arathy, the daughter of N Ramachandran, who was tragically killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, expressed strong support for the Indian Army's newly launched "Operation Sindoor". Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Arathy voiced her hopes that this initiative would provide some solace to the families who, like hers, have suffered from the brutalities of terrorism.

Arathy, whose father's death left an indelible mark on her family, acknowledged that the operation signifies more than just military action. She described it as a powerful response from the women of India, reflecting the collective resolve to confront the menace of terrorism. Arathy's father, N Ramachandran, was among the many innocent lives lost during terrorist attacks in the

**'Sindoor over Pakistan'** 



Kashmir Valley. While the operation's immediate impact remains to be fully assessed, Arathy's words re-

flected a sentiment shared by numerous families who have lost loved ones in similar circumstances. The pain of such loss is often compounded by the feeling that justice is elusive, and the perpetrators remain unpunished. For these families, Operation Sindoor offers a glimmer of hope that action will be taken, and justice may be served.

"We've seen the destruction caused by these terrorists in our lives. My father's death is a constant reminder of the harsh reality faced by thousands of families like mine. I believe this operation will help bring closure to many of us," said Arathy. Her call for justice echoes the demands of families across India who have been victims of cross-border terrorism. Arathy's father Ramachandran was gunned down in front of her. eyes.

#### **Actors salute heroes**

Actors Mammootty and Mohanlal have publicly endorsed India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Mammootty expressed

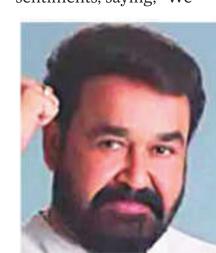


his support on social media, stating, "Salute to our heroes. Operation Sindoor once again proves that the Indian Army will listen to the call when the country calls. Thank you

for saving lives and ke-

eping hope alive. You are raising the pride of the country to the sky, Jai Hi-

Mohanlal also voiced his sentiments, saying, "We



wear sindoor not just as a tradition, but as a symbol of our unwavering resolve. Challenge us and we will rise, fearless and stronger than ever. Salute to every brave heart of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force "

being addressed. These sirens are part of the Kerala Warnings Crisis and Hazard Management system, designed to disseminate information and issue warnings

effectively during crises. In Kerala, mock drills were conducted across all 14 districts, with the state government urging public cooperation and preparedness.

The civil defence apparatus has been actively involved in various disaster response operations. For instance, during the landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai, civil defence teams played a crucial role in rescue operations, highlighting their importance in disaster Additionally, response. mock drills have been conducted to assess tsunami preparedness in coastal regions like Alappad and Valiyaparamba, aiming to certify these areas as 'tsunami-ready' based on various indicators such as evacuation route maps and awareness classes.

The drills are part of a br-The state's commitment oader national strategy into disaster preparedness is volving 244 districts across further exemplified by the the country. In Kerala, the mock drill conducted to asexercise included the opesess flood preparedness in rational testing of sirens in-

Thiruvananthapuram, where a hypothetical flood situation was created in five panchayats, including Chenkal, Poovachal, Vellanad, Kadakkavoor, and Kochi.

### Only the initial phase, feels Antony

Union Minister Suresh Gopi, speaking at the Thrissur Pooram festival, defended India's surgical strike, stating that the operation was a necessary measure to protect national security and prevent future terrorist attacks. He emphasised that the

the politician-turned actor said.

strikes were not acts of revenge but steps taken in accordance with international norms to safeguard citizens. "Thrissur Pooram filled the sky with myriad colours, Operation Sindoor sprayed sindoor over Pakistan." Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister for Defence A.K. Antony has marked Operation Sindoor as only the initial phase in a broader strategy against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Antony's remarks, made on May 7, 2025, raise important questions about the trajectory of India's counterterrorism efforts and the pot-

in the region. While acknowledging the significance of Operation Sindoor, which targeted several extremist camps,

ential for escalating military actions

Antony framed the operation as just the beginning. His statement has amplified speculation about the next steps in India's ongoing military strategy and whether more extensive actions are on the horizon.

Many analysts believe that his remarks reflect the government's broader strategy of strengthening its offensive capabilities. If this approach gains momentum, it could signal a more aggressive posture in dealing with groups operating in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.ic dis-



**UNITED FRONT** | 'A' and 'I' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership

# Leadership crisis intensifies as Sudhakaran refuses to budge

#### **HD Bureau**

KOCHI

A leadership impasse within the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee has intensified, with party president K Sudhakaran resisting pressure from the All India Congress Committee to step down. Sudhakaran's refusal, bolstered by support from senior leaders, has escalated tensions within the party, prompting concerns about the unity of the United Democratic Front ahead of upcoming elections.

Sudhakaran has publicly dismissed reports of a leadership change as spec-

ulative, asserting his commitment to the party's directives. He emphasized that no official communication from the AICC has requested his resignation, stating, "If they ask me to step down, I will obey their command as a loyal and obedient party worker." This stance has been met with both support and opposition within the

party ranks. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has voiced strong support for Sudhakaran, highlighting the party's electoral successes under his leadership. Tharoor noted that the Congress secured significant victories



in the 2024 general elections and subsequent bypolls, arguing that there is no justification for a change in leadership. "Let him continue. Everyone should stand together with him," Tharoor

stated, reinforcing the call for unity within the party.

However, internal divisions persist, with factions within the KPCC expressing dissatisfaction over the selection of block unit presi-

dents and alleging a lack of consultation in decision-making processes. The 'A' and 'I' groups, historically influential within the Kerala Congress, have united in their criticism of the current leadership, accusing Sudhakaran and Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of sidelining senior leaders and consolidating power without broader consensus. In response to the escalating discord, the AICC has initiated efforts to mediate and restore cohesion within the Kerala Congress. A high-level committee comprising key figures, including Sudhakaran, Satheesan, UDF Co-

nvenor M M Hassan, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal, and General Secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi, has been formed to address the internal conflicts and strategize for upcoming elections. Dasmunshi has actively engaged with UDF partners, seeking to reassure allies of the Congress's commitment to unity and collaborative decision-making. Despite these interventions, the leadership crisis remains unresolved, with Sudhakaran's faction demanding the replacement of Dasmunshi, citing her controversial role.

### Onam, X'mas exams to go

**HD Bureau** 

The Kerala government is evaluating a proposal to extend daily high school hours by 30 minutes, aiming to meet the mandated 1,200 instructional hours annually without resorting to Saturday classes. This initiative follows a five-member committee's recommendations to revise the academic calendar, including reducing school exams from three to two and holding classes on one Saturday each month to prevent six con-

secutive working days. Currently, schools conduct examinations during Onam, Christmas, and March. The committee suggests replacing this with a half--yearly exam in October and an annual exam in March, with academic assessments

conducted through regular class tests. The proposal also includes reducing school breaks to ten minutes. The move to extend daily

hours is seen as a compromise after the Kerala High Court overturned a previous directive that designated 25 Saturdays as working days to achieve 220 instructional days. The court ruled that such decisions require broader consultation with stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and students.

Teachers' unions have expressed concerns over the unilateral decisions affecting the academic calendar. The Kerala Pradesh School Teachers Association and other unions argue that the current schedule already meets the required instructional hours and additional working days.

### Sarin gets a job!

#### **HD Bureau**

Dr P Sarin, a former Congress leader who recently joined the Communist Party of India , has been appointed as the advisor to Vigyan Kerala, a significant development in the political landscape of the state. The appointment is marked by the offer of a monthly salary of ₹80,000 for his advisory role.

Sarin, who was previ-



Kerala Pradesh Congress mance.

Committee Digital Media Cell, made headlines when he shifted allegiance from Congress to CPM during the Palakkad by-election. His move has drawn attention, with political analysts seeing it as a noteworthy shift in Kerala's political dynamics. Sarin's decision to leave Congress and align with the ruling CPM has been widely discussed, particularly in light ously the convenor of the of his electoral perfor-

### Murmu's Sabarimala visit a milestone

#### **HD Bureau**

KOCHI

President Droupadi Murmu's upcoming visit to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala on May 19 is poised to be a defining moment in the temple's history. The two-day trip, which is set to place the President at the revered hill shrine, comes at a time when Sabarimala has significantly bolstered its position as a prominent spiritual and religious hub, both within Devaswom Board, the Sab- religious and cultural tra-India and globally.



arimala temple has always dition. P S Prashanth, Pre-

that this visit by the head of Lord Ayyappa, attracts mistate will be "a milestone in the overall development of Sabarimala," underscoring the importance of the visit at a time when the temple's stature continues to rise. This will not be the first time a sitting president visits the shrine, as President V V Giri had made a similar visit decades ago. However, this particular visit holds special significance in the modern increasing prominence and ngent rituals and fasting, the larger developments su- make it a distinct and rev-Managed by the Travancore been at the heart of a unique sident of the TDB, remarked rrounding its infrastructure.

llions of devotees annually, particularly during the Mandala-Makaravilakk u pilgrimage season. Its prominence has only grown in the last few decades, with a steady increase in the number of devotees travelling to the hilltop temple from all parts of India and beyond. The temple's location, at a challenging altitude, and the pilgrimage's long-standing context, with the temple's traditions, including striered spiritual journey for Sabarimala, dedicated to many.. The Sabarimala pi-

### offgrid

### Elephant rampage mars Pooram fireworks show

#### **HD Bureau**

At least 42 people were injured when an elephant went on a rampage during the Thrissur Pooram celebrations in the early morning of Wednesday. The incident unfolded around 2:15 a.m. on Pandi Samooha Madam Road, near Swaraj Round, where a large crowd had gathered to enjoy the renowned fireworks display. The elephant, Uttoly Raman, part of the procession

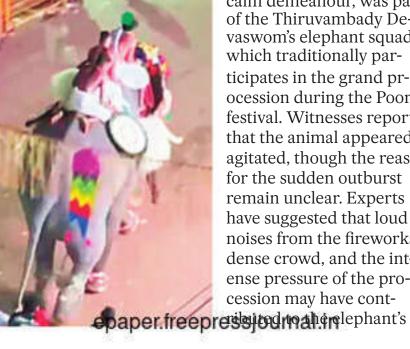
ambady Devaswom, suddenly turned aggressive, triggering widespread pa-

organised by Thiruv-

The chaos erupted as the 25-year-old tusker broke free from its handlers and began charging through the crowd. Those closest to the animal were struck or knocked over as people scrambled for cover in the dark, chaotic streets. Emergency responders and local authorities rushed to the scene to manage the siThe animal's violent ou-

tburst disrupted the lively festivities of the Pooram, one of Kerala's most famous cultural events, held annually at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur. The firework display, a highlight of the event, was temporarily halted as authorities focused on containing the elephant and ensuring the safety of the attendees.

Uttoly Raman, a seasoned elephant known for his



calm demeanour, was part of the Thiruvambady Devaswom's elephant squad, which traditionally participates in the grand procession during the Pooram festival. Witnesses reported that the animal appeared agitated, though the reasons for the sudden outburst remain unclear. Experts have suggested that loud noises from the fireworks, a dense crowd, and the intense pressure of the procession may have cont-

unexpected behaviour. The injured were quickly taken to nearby hospitals for treatment, with some suffering minor to moderate injuries, while others sustained more serious trauma. Local authorities confirmed that the elephant was safely restrained by the Elephant Squad, which consists of experienced handlers skilled in managing animals in such situations.

> Uttoly Raman's aggressive behaviour has raised fresh

concerns over the safety measures surrounding elephants used in festivals. Elephants play a significant role in the cultural and religious life of Kerala, especially during major events like Pooram. However, experts have long voiced concerns about the conditions under which these animals are kept and the risks involved in using them for such public spectacles.

The incident has reignited the debate over the treatment of elephants in

festivals across Kerala. While they are considered sacred and are revered in the state's religious traditions, the practice of parading elephants during major festivals has faced growing criticism. Animal rights activists argue that the loud noises, overcrowding, and extended hours of work cause significant stress to the elephants, potentially leading to dangerous situations like the one that occurred during Thrissur Pooram.



### The Free Press Journal

### Action, reaction & a lesson

he destruction of nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) by India on Wednesday has once again demonstrated Delhi's firm commitment to fight terrorism on its soil and act against those who target Indians. The Indian action came in response to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir, in which 26 innocent tourists were brutally killed by operatives of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (Let). The military action, codenamed Operation Sindoor, symbolising the sacred vermilion of a married Hindu woman, was a signal to those widows who saw their husbands being killed in front of their eyes and also to Pakistan that the Indian government will punish those responsible for their killing. The military action, however, avoided targeting civilians and Pakistan's military installations, making it clear that India does not want to encourage a wider conflict.

In a pre-dawn, tri-service coordinated action called Operation Sindoor, the armed forces launched 24 missiles against precise terrorists' locations in Pakistan and territories under its control to demolish the camps. Nearly 70 terrorists were reportedly killed in the missile attack. The entire operation lasted less than 25 minutes. Most of the dead were members of the terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohamed, who have been responsible for targeting Indian assets and citizens over the years. The action against Pakistan came amid calls for restraint from key world leaders. India's decision to go ahead with its objective, ignoring such calls, indicates that despite its respect for global opinion, its primary responsibility was the safety and security of

India waited for nearly two weeks, informing world leaders about Pakistan's complicity and its pursuance of cross-border terrorism as a foreign policy tool against India. It hoped Islamabad would punish the perpetrators and assure Delhi it would not encourage such acts in future by taking visible action in dismantling its terrorist infrastructures. Instead, Pakistan denied its involvement and attacked India for creating a war hysteria between the two countries while playing to the outside world's apprehension that an India-Pakistan armed conflict can deteriorate to a nuclear conflagra-

tion. This left India with little choice but to take action against the terrorists and their backers in Pakistan. India also had credible intelligence that Pakistan was gathering more terrorists at the camps to carry out similar attacks in Kashmir and other parts of India. The action was, therefore, both pre-emptive and punishing to those involved in the Pahalgam attack.

A long war is not desirable, but world opinion must be against Pakistan to force it to give up its policy of using terrorism as a tool against its neighbour.

The Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar has briefed the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Russia. The Iranian foreign minister Seyed Abbas Aragachi, who arrived in Delhi on Wednesday, was briefed by the Indian foreign minister. Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also discussed the evolving situation with leaders of the five countries in the past few days.

The death of the 26 civilians was the largest number of civilian casualties since the November 26, 2008, attacks in Mumbai. The brutal killing of the innocent tourists in front of their family was clearly driven by the objectives of disrupting tourism, the mainstay of the local economy, and derailing the normalcy that was being restored in the Union Territory through development and growth.

Last year, over 23 million tourists from different parts of India visited Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to about 40,000 foreigners. The killing of the tourists was a signal to the rest of India that the area was not safe for visiting. Another objective was to tell the world that despite India's claim, Jammu and Kashmir remained a disturbed area and local people were desperate to seek independence from Indian rule. The aim was to ensure the region remained a fertile ground for continued cross-border terrorism from Pakistan by keeping it backward and disturbed. The attack was also driven by an objective to provoke communal violence in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. However, because of the government and the people, such designs were

A group called the Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the attack. However, it was a front for the Let, a UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group. The Indian investigation teams had also found, through communication nodes of terrorists and other evidence

after the Pahalgam attack, their link to Pakistan. India must continue to exert pressure on Pakistan at the international stage through sustained campaigning. Pakistan has a long tradition of indulging in crossborder terrorism against India and has a reputation for being a safe haven for terrorists from around the world. It has wilfully misled the world leaders at international forums, like the Financial Action Task Force, about harbouring terrorists. India should also maintain economic pressure on Pakistan. Credit agency Moody says Pakistan's IMF loan in the future could be affected if it en-

gages in a long war. A long war is not desirable, but world opinion must be against Pakistan to force it to give up its policy of using terrorism as a tool against its neighbour. Otherwise, India could come up with a much stronger response against Pakistan in future.



K C SINGH

wo weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack, India finally retaliated by launching air attacks against 9 targets. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in his press state-

ment, emphasised India choosing

non-military targets linked to Pakistan's terror machine. Since India's 2019 Balakot attack, after the Pulwama suicide bombing of Indian paramilitary personnel, Delhi assumed that Pakistan had been finally deterred from sponsoring terrorism. The abrogation of Article 370 and the division and downgrading of Jammu and

Kashmir into two union territories,

followed by an extended Presi-

dent's rule, fanned Indian compla-

cency that terrorism stood

defeated. These smug conclusions rested on two flawed presumptions. One, the conclusion that an economically beleaguered Pakistan was preoccupied with domestic political instability and terrorism emanating from Balochistan and Afghanistan; and two, that a weakening Pakistani state meant its army was also handicapped. However, that was never so, as

China props up Pakistan as a

### Retaliation a must, but so is dialogue once calm returns

The Pakistan army is generally good at tactical surprise, what they lack is strategic perception of how their antagonist may react

counterweight to India in South Asia. Pakistan, if anything, has upgraded its air force and army. With India allocating resources to counter China across the Line of Actual Control, its residual military resources do not greatly outweigh those of Pakistan, except in the naval domain.

Before Pahalgam, multiple warning signs were aflutter that some mischief could be expected from the Pakistan army. Pakistan had blamed India and Afghanistan for the March hijacking of a train by militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). Then came the completely unhinged public speech by army chief General Asim Munir, reviving the discarded 2-nation theory, which died when Bangladesh was created in 1972. His terming "Kashmir" as Pakistan's "jugular vein" indicated that they were again preparing to mainstream internationally the Kashmir issue. The general having conspired to detain mass leader Imran Khan indefinitely, the Sharif government is his puppet. The director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has just been also designated as the National Security Advisor. This means the army now has its representative directly advising the cabinet. All pretences of civil control over the military are jettisoned.

On the Indian side, General Munir correctly assumed that a BJP-led government would not but retaliate after the brutal, communal and close-quarter killing of 26 males. The Pakistani army is generally good at tactical surprise, like in the case of the Kargil intrusion. They lack strategic perception of how their antagonist may react. They rely on the nuclear bluff to stymie India from broadening retaliation. The Modi government, like that of Vajpayee in 1999, has called the Pakistani bluff. This time the targets include not only most training camps of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir but also their declared headquarters at Muridke and Bahawalpur, respectively.

In both places, the terror outfits have created charitable institutions, providing education and healthcare. That earns them public goodwill, facilitates recruitment and enables fund collection abroad, especially in the Gulf. The facade also becomes a protective shield against scrutiny of their real motives and actions. India came

close to attacking Muridke after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, but the US was still in Afghanistan and hunting for Osama bin Laden. Their pressure and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's pacifist instincts held India back. India chose instead to use the international route to name and shame Pakistan. The UN Security Council's listing of global terrorists was also employed, despite Chinese foot-dragging. That process has just obtained for India the custody of Tahawwur Rana, co-conspirator with David Headley. That may also be a motivating factor for the Pakistan army's urgency to create a major distraction, as his revelations will uncover ISI's direct complicity

In 2019, President Donald Trump played a vital role in de-escalating the situation quickly. In his present incarnation, he is totally enmeshed in the global trade chaos that he has churned. He also has Ukraine and Gaza conflicts already choking his claimed diplomatic prowess. China, for the same reason, may actually be against the South Asian conflict escalating. It needs India as a potential market, probably assuming that Trump will not easily back off.

in 26/11.

What then can happen next? Pakistan will certainly retaliate. It can be mostly symbolic, like in 2019, with LoC firing already taking a toll. Its problem is target selection. India does not have terrorist training camps breeding anti-Pakistan militancy. It has also seen India beginning to weaponise river waters, which is an existential threat. If it targets military facilities, then escalation is inevitable. If it goes after the run-of-river projects on Chenab and Jhelum, that too would cross India's red lines.

Pakistani generals lose jobs after tactical mistakes. President Pervez Musharraf's coup followed an attempt to replace him. Unfortunately, with the degradation of the position of America as an arbiter in such situations, the offramps look shaky. Pakistan has to back off from resumed sponsorship of terror against India. India needs to restore deterrence. But this time, unlike in 2019, India also needs, once calm returns, to open dialogue with Pakistan. Shutting all doors has proven as risky as appeasement. Diplomacy must find a middle path.

KC Singh is former secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



**DEEPA GAHLOT** 

n a comic book populated mainly by male superheroes, **Catwoman** is an intriguing character—both vampish and heroic. She made her debut in 1940 and has held her mystique for 85 years.

Catwoman was ranked 11th on Image Game Network's list of the Top 100 Comic Book Villains of All Time, and 51st on Wizard magazine's 100 Greatest Villains of All Time list; she was ranked 20th on IGN's Top 100 Comic Book Heroes of All Time list. This not only marks her popularity but also indicates a complexity to her character, not usually granted to comic book fe-

Created by Bill Finger and Bob Kane, The Cat appeared in the first Batman comic in 1940 and went on to become one of his rogues' gallery of adversaries. Interestingly, she was also his love interest. Of course, there was sexism built into the comic book universe aimed at adolescent males.

Catwoman, the alter ego of Selina Kyle, was drawn dressed in a skintight bodysuit and given a bullwhip as a weapon. In those modest times, the sexual connotations of her slinky, whip-wielding persona were not lost on anyone, and the character was forced by the Comics Code Authority to vanish from 1954 to 1966, in keeping

### The conflicts and challenges of being Catwoman

In the male-dominated world of comic book characters, Catwoman stands tall as a proto-feminist, both vampish and heroic at once

with the rules regarding the portrayal of women in comic books. The code was eventually dropped, and Catwoman returned. Inspired by Bollywood femme

fatales like Jean Harlow and Hedy Lamarr, Kane and Finger wanted to give their comic book sex appeal (though the catsuit came much later) and also appeal to female readers—according to Bob Kane's book Batman And Me (1989), they wanted to give Batman a "friendly foe who committed crimes but was also a romantic interest in Batman's rather sterile life."

Why a cat? He wrote, "I felt that women were feline creatures and men were more like dogs. While dogs are faithful and friendly, cats are cool, detached, and unreliable. I felt much warmer with dogs around me—cats are as hard to understand as women are. Men feel more sure of themselves with a male friend than a woman. You always need to keep women at arm's length. We don't want anyone taking over our souls, and women have a habit of doing that. So there's a love-resentment thing with women. I guess women will feel that I'm being chauvinistic to speak this way, but I do feel that I've had better relationships with male friends than women. With women, once the romance is over, somehow they never remain my friends."



Michelle Pfieffer as Catwoman. The character made its debut in 1940.

The character underwent many dramatic changes in her journey, and in 1993, Catwoman was given her first own comic series, with Jim Balent as the main writer with others, who gave her a backstory as a teenage runaway, her time in a juvenile detention home, a female sidekick and her training with another DC Comics character, Ted 'Wildcat' Grant.

Inevitably, the feminist potential of the character was noted, and dozens of magazine articles, books and papers were written on her. There is also criticism of the hypersexualized portrayal and the clichéd negative stereotyping of women as cats. Gloria Steinem commented that Catwoman "is a feminist superhero with a storyline and transformation of her ownplus class consciousness, a girl buddy, equal skills with the Batman equipment and an apartment of her own."

Making an appearance on television in 1966, she was played by the six-foot tall Julie Newmar in a black Lurex catsuit with cat ears and a low-slung golden belt. Catwoman, says Julie Newmar, quoted in a piece by Allison Keyes in npr.org, is comprised of the "most delicious" human traits-determined, calculating, and wise. And

that catsuit? "You feel more power," she said, "You're both hidden and exposed at the same time. You're hidden by the black; you're exposed by the tightness of the outfit. You have on these high heels, long nails, and then your eyelashes your hair!"

Catwoman has been played by many actresses over the years, among them Lee Meriwether in Batman (1966), Michelle Pfeiffer in Batman Returns (1992), Halle Berry in Catwoman (2004), Anne Hathaway in The Dark Knight Rises (2012), and Zoe Kravitz in The Batman (2022). On television, she has been played by Julie Newmar, Eartha Kitt, Carmen Bicondova and Lili Simmons. All of them have interpreted the character in their own way.

Suzanne Colon, author of Catwoman: The Life and Times of Feline Fatale, wrote, "This was one of the first female characters we saw on television that really spoke to empowerment. Not only empowerment; a proto-feminism that was very sexy and pretty and female, and yet very take-charge. This woman had her own gang of men who wore little cat ears... to please her." Any woman who can manage that is definitely a super-

Deepa Gahlot is a Mumbai-based columnist, critic and author.

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear reader, We are eager to know your opinions, comments and suggestions. Write to letters@fpj.co.in with the title of the letter in the subject line. Using snail mail? Send your letters to The Free Press Journal, Free Press House, 215 Free Press Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021.

#### **Vizhinjam Port**

The Vizhinjam Port, recently inaugurated by PM Modi, is the cynosure these days. It is India's first deepwater transhipment container port, located in Thiruvananthapuram. The Vizhiniam Port will definitely help India improve its transhipment reach in the Indian Ocean. Till now, the privilege of docking deepsea container ships at such a strategic point in the Indian Ocean was enjoyed only by Sri Lanka's Columbo port. With the formation of Vizhinjam Port, one can dock heavy vessels between Jebel Ali and Columbo easily.

Kirti Wadhawan, Kanpur

#### Pak must comply

In the interest of regional stability and its own longterm security, it is imperative that Pakistan takes credible and irreversible action to dismantle all terrorist infrastructure operating from its territory against India. This expectation is not unilateral; it is firmly supported by several members of the United Nations Security Council, who have consistently underscored the collective responsibility to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

P.V. Prakash, Mumbai

#### **Hate no more**

Himanshi, the wife of Lt Gen Vinay Narwal, who was killed in the Pahalgam attack, is being trolled severely on social media for saying that she did not "want anyone to hate anyone. People are going against Muslims, we do not want this". But people who do politics of hate don't get this. They neither have any connection with the country nor humanity. The government should not only catch the trollers but also punish them hard. By giving in to hatred, we will only be helping Pakistan realise its agenda of creating anarchy in the country.

Hema Hari Upadhyay,

strongly feel that national epressistan and Pakistan-oc-

Salute to Indian armed forces As a citizen of India, I



#### Man's conflict with the cheetah

The authorities must segregate residential areas from forest land using unscalable electric fences fitted with CC cameras and electronic buzzers. Floodlights and drones, along with armed guards, should be used to keep round-the-clock vigilance so that people don't trespass into the protected area. Additionally, technology by way of microchips, radio collars and leg bands should be used to stop wild animals and birds from being poached. Peter Castellino, Mumbai

unity and solidarity are the

needs of the hour, and we,

the people of India, must

forces. The Indian armed

forces carried out missile

attacks on terror targets in

stand with our armed

cupied Kashmir (PoK) in

the early hours of Wednesday. We are extremely proud of the Indian armed forces, who have struck terror camps in Pakistan and PoK, and applaud their resolute resolve and courage.

#### Bhagwan Thadani, Mumbai

#### **Welcome Carney**

The Indian immigrants who saw Canada under Trudeau understand well what separatism is all about. It was almost a free run for the fringe group fearlessly advocating their prominence and their muscle to handle voices against them. Now, with Mark Carney at the helm and his clear stance against extremist elements operating on Canadian soil, things might change for the better.

Manish Shukla, Kota

**Dragon's roar** Many Chinese netizens are using social media to express their anger against the US. Hashtags like 'Oppose American Hegemony' are trending on Chinese platforms such as Weibo, TikTok, and WeChat. Anti-American memes, satire, and caricatures are going viral. China has been trading globally long before America even existed. While the wars in Ukraine

and Gaza dominate headlines, today's most discussed conflict is the trade war initiated by the US. Patriotic and anti-American sentiments are rising among the Chinese public, with calls to boycott US products and charge American customers pre-

> **Dattaprasad Shirodkar**, Mumbai

### Memories of my grand-

**Grandma's tales** 

mium prices.

mother's bedtime stories may have faded, but the ones I tell my grandchildren remain fresh. New stories are created daily, yet my grandson always asks for the same one, perhaps because it touches a deep chord of bonding. Indian tales, deeply tied to family relationships and cultural identity, strengthen emotional bonds and reflect collectivist values. They emphasise humility, selflessness, and

spiritual wisdom, contrast-

ing with the individualism

seen in modern tales.

R. Narayanan, Navi Mumbai

### Briefs

#### 5 booked after migrant boat capsizes

Federal officials filed charges Tuesday against five people in connection to a boat carrying migrants that capsized a day earlier off San Diego's Pacific coast, killing three people, including a 14year-old boy from India. The boy's 10-year-old sister is still missing at sea and is presumed dead, the US Attorney's Office in San Diego said in a statement. Their parents were among four people who were injured and taken to the hospital, including the father, who is in a coma. The other two killed were from Mexico, including an 18-year-old boy and another man, according to the Mexican consulate.

#### TOKYO

#### Man stabs 2 at subway station

A man with a knife slashed two passengers on a train stopping at a Tokyo subway station during the evening rush on Wednesday, and their injuries were not believed to be life-threatening, Japanese police and media reported. The 43year-old suspect was arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder, Tokyo's metropolitan police said. The suspect's motives and other details were not immediately known.

**ESCALATING WAR | Schools sheltering hundreds of displaced** Palestinians attacked as the conflict enters its 20th month

### 59 killed in Gaza as Israel set to ramp up offensive

Agencies

GAZA STRIP

Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 59 people, including women and children, hospital officials said Wednesday, as Israel prepares to ramp up its campaign against Hamas in a devastating war now entering its 20th month.

The strikes included one attack on Tuesday night on a school sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians, which killed 27 people, officials from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. It was the fifth time since the war began that the school in central Gaza has been struck.

An early morning strike on another school turned shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes on targets in other areas killed at least 16 others.

A large column of smoke rose and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter in Bureij, a built-up refugee camp. Paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out from the blaze.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes. Israel blames Hamas for the death toll because it operates from civilian infrastructure, including schools.

The new bloodshed comes days after Israel approved a



#### 'Only 21 hostages alive': Trump draws Israel's ire

stands at 24, although an

Israeli official said there was

"serious concern" for the

lives of three captives. The

official said there has been

no sign of life from those

three, whom the official did

of thousands of reserve sol-

diers to carry out the plan.

Israel says the plan will be

gradual and will not be imple-

mented until after US

President Donald Trump

wraps up his visit to the

would likely drive up the

Any escalation of fighting

region later this month.

He said that until there is

not identify.

he war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages. Israel's offensive has killed more than 52,000 people in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials. The officials do not distinguish between combatants and civilians in their count. Trump on Tuesday

plan to intensify its operations in the Palestinian enclave, which would include seizing Gaza, holding on to captured territories, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza and taking control of aid distribution along with private

security companies. Israel is also calling up tens stunned many in Israel evidence proving otherwise, when he declared that only the three are considered to 21 of the 59 hostages remainbe alive. ing in Gaza are still alive. The official, who spoke on Israel insists that figure

condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details related to the war, said the families of the captives were updated on those develop-

Hamas says it is prepared to release all of the hostages for an end to the war and a long term truce with Israel.

death toll. And with Israel already controlling some 50% of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory, for an indefinite amount of time, could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed.

### Putin completes 25 yrs in Russia hot seat and still going strong

**Agencies** MOSCOW

Exactly 25 years ago on May 7, an obscure ex-KGB colonel **Vladimir Putin** -- with little public exposure as deputy mayor of St Petersburg -- took the oath of the highest office in the post-Communist Russia.

A quarter century

later, Putin, 72, still remains the most popular politician in Russia, as was evident by last year's election, which Putin won with 88.48 per cent of votes polled.

In a TV documentary shown on Sunday, he, however, said that he was looking for a successor, but it was not in his power as the successor would have to seek a popular vote in the elections with strong rivals.

For Putin, it has been a 25year journey that has come to coincide with Russia's journey in the 21st century.

His predecessor Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first directly elected president, had resigned due to failing health on the backdrop of political instability, financial and economic, militancy in the Northern Caucasus and a spate of terrorist attacks. He handed Putin, the incumbent prime minister of the country, the hot Kremlin seat on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999.

Putin was elected on March 26, 2000, bagging 53 per cent votes by beating Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov and liberal Yabloko block leader Grigory Yavlinsky in "reasonably free and fair" polls, according to a declassified US



#### Biden's 'appeasement' dig at Trump

**London:** Joe Biden said in his first post-presidential interview that President Donald Trump's pressure on Ukraine to give up territory to Russia amounts to "modern-day appeasement," a historically fraught term that refers to a failed effort to stop the Nazis from annexing land in Europe in the 1930s. Biden told BBC Radio 4s "Today" program in remarks aired on Wednesday that Trump's statements about acquiring Panama, Greenland and Canada have bred distrust in Europe. He also said it was a "difficult decision" to leave the US presidential race in 2024.

#### Russian attack kills 2 in Ukraine

Kyiv: Russia launched a ballistic missile and a barrage of drones at Ukraine's capital before dawn on Wednesday, killing at least two people in apartment buildings, Ukrainian officials said. Eight people were also wounded in the attack, including four children, the Kyiv City Military Administration said in a post on Telegram. The attack came before Russia's planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire in the more than three-year war to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II. The US has proposed a 30-day ceasefire, which Ukraine has accepted, but the Kremlin has held out for ceasefire terms more to its liking.

Embassy cable from Moscow in 2024.

The way Putin resolutely fought Chechen militancy, assured timely pensions to the most vulnerable section of society, revived manufacturing in the country, generating employment, ensured a second term with almost 72 per cent votes.

Due to constitutional restraint of two four-year consecutive terms, he stepped aside and took over the job of prime minister under President Dmitry Medvedev for four years.

### US loses fighter jet as landing on aircraft carrier goes awry

**Agencies** 

DUBAI

An F/A-18 fighter jet landing on the USS Harry S Truman aircraft carrier in the Red Sea went overboard, forcing its two pilots to eject, a defence official told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The incident Tuesday marks the latest mishap to mar the deployment of the Truman, which has been essential in the airstrike campaign by the United States against Yemen's Houthi rebels.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump and Oman's foreign minister both said that a ceasefire had been reached with the Houthis, who would no longer target ships in the Red Sea corridor - something not immediately acknowledged by the rebels.

Meanwhile, the Houthis continue to assess the damage after daytime Israeli airstrikes targeted Yemen's rebel-held capital of Sanaa.

The F/A-18 Super Hornet landed on the Truman after a



flight, but "the arrestment failed," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak publicly about the incident now under investigation.

"Arrestment" refers to the hook system used by aircraft landing on carriers, which catches steel wire ropes on the flight deck. It remains unclear what part of the system failed.

The two pilots on board were later rescued by a helicopter and suffered minor injuries in the incident, the official added. No one on the flight deck was hurt.

Tuesday's incident was the latest to see the Navy lose an F/A-18, which cost about \$60 million. In April, another F/A-18 fighter jet slipped off the hangar deck of the Truman and fell into the Red Sea. The crew members who were in the pilot seat of the Super Hornet and on the small towing tractor both jumped away.

In December, the guidedmissile cruiser Gettysburg mistakenly shot down an F/A-18 after ships earlier shot down multiple Houthi drones and an antiship cruise missile launched by the rebels. Both aviators in that incident also survived.

### US, China officials to meet in Switzerland for tariff negotiations

**Agencies** WASHINGTON

Top US officials are set to meet with a high-level Chinese delegation this weekend in Switzerland, the administration announced Tuesday, in the first major talks between the two nations since President Donald Trump sparked a trade war with stiff tariffs on imports.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and trade representative Jamieson Greer will meet with their counterparts in Geneva in the most-senior known conversations between the two countries in months. It comes amid growing US market worry over the impact of the tariffs on the prices and supply of con-

sumer goods. Trump had claimed previously that the US and China were holding negotiations on lowering tariffs, which Beijing has denied, saying

Trump must first lower his stiff tariffs. Bessent earlier Tuesday testified to a House committee that the US and China "have not engaged in negotiations" but "as early as this week," the US will be announcing trade deals with some of the US' largest trading partners.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry on Tuesday confirmed the meeting between the vice premier and Bessent in Switzerland.

"The Chinese side carefully evaluated the information from the US side and decided to agree to have contact with the US side after fully considering global expectations, Chinese interests and calls from US businesses and consumers," said a ministry spokesperson.

Bessent and Greer also plan to meet with Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter, according to readouts from their respective offices.

#### **Auction of Buddha gems** stalled after **India threats**

**Agencies** 

HONG KONG

Sotheby's on Wednesday postponed an auction of jewels associated Buddha's remains after the Indian government opposed the sale and demanded it be halted.

The gems for auction were found buried together in reliquaries with the corporeal relics of the historical Buddha and discovered in northern India in 1898, the auction house said. They dated back to around 240-200 BC, it said.

But India's Ministry of

Culture said in a Facebook post on Tuesday it had issued a legal notice to Sotheby's Hong Kong to demand the immediate halt of the sale, accusing the auction of violating "Indian laws, international norms and UN conventions." In its letter to Sotheby's Hong Kong dated Monday, posted on Facebook, it said the auction involves sacred Buddhist relics that constitute the inalienable religious and cultural heritage of India and the global Buddhist community. It demanded the repatriation of the relics to the Indian government and a public apology from the auction house and Chris Peppé.

Peppé is a great-grandson of British William Peppé, who excavated the relics.

The Indian government warned in the letter that failure to comply would result in legal actions.

Eyes on Sistine Chapel for white smoke sign

### Canadian PM says talks with Trump constructive despite no tariffs lifting



**Agencies OTTAWA** 

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that he had wide-ranging and constructive discussions with US President Donald Trump in the White House, although the two leaders disagreed on tariffs lifting and the "51st state," according to the live broadcast of CBC News.

Giving a post-meeting conference Washington, Carney said that he and Trump agreed to have further conversations in the coming weeks and meet again in person at the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, Xinhua news agency reported.

Carney said he told Trump it's "not useful" to repeat the 51st state idea, adding that Trump is the president who is going to say whatever he wants. "He understands that we are having a negotiation between sovereign nations." said Carney.

Responding to the question if he is heading back to Ottawa with any tangible progress on ending the trade war, Carney said they had some very specific things to follow up on and build out from that. "These are the discussions

you have when you're looking to find solutions," he said. While Trump made it clear

that the tariffs, especially those on the auto sector, would stay in place, Carney said, "We'll see.'

Canadian workers and suppliers in auto plant towns are worried that the longer the tariff dispute goes on, the less likely those finished cars are to be sold, reported CBC

"If he (Trump) actually achieves shutting down production in Canada and Mexico, it doesn't mean he's going to get new production in the US," Flavio Volpe, president of Canada's Automotive Manufacturers' Association, was quoted as

Volpe said he hopes Carney will announce further meetings with Trump: "I want to know that we've set a date for the next game."

His decision to surpass the usual limit of 120 cardinal

electors and include younger

ones from the "global south" -

### Columbia shows door to 180 after Trump cuts grants

**Agencies** 

**NEW YORK** 

Columbia University said Tuesday that it will be laying off nearly 180 staffers in response to President Donald Trump's decision to cancel \$400 million in funding over the Manhattan college's handling of student protests against the war in Gaza.

Those receiving nonor termination renewal notices Tuesday represent about 20% of the employees funded in some manner by the terminated federal grants, the university said in a statement Tuesday.

deliberate, considered decisions about the allocation of our financial resources," the



"We have had to make university said. "Those decisions also impact our greatest resource, our people. We understand this news will be

University spokes-Jessica Murphy declined to say whether more layoffs were expected, but said Columbia is taking a range of steps to create financial flexibility, including maintaining current salary levels and offering voluntary retirement incentives.

Research will also be scaled back, with some departments winding down studies and others maintaining some level of research.

The layoffs, while expected, were "dispiriting" for faculty, said Marcel Agueros, secretary of Columbia's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, which has filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration.

### Merz in France, Poland to put up united front in trade war

**Agencies** BERLIN

Friedrich Merz made his world-affairs debut Wednesday as Germany's new chancellor, with plans to immediately team up with allies France and Poland to present a united European front on support for Ukraine and against US President Donald Trump's trade war.

The new pairing of Merz French President Emmanuel Macron - both

firm believers in the European Union - could help stiffen resistance from the 27nation bloc against pressure from Trump and against Russia's continuing war in Ukraine.

With the EU's largest economies and populations, the tandem of Germany and France has long underpinned the 27-nation bloc but lost some of its vigour in recent months as leaders in both countries wrestled with domestic issues

Merz and Macron are hoping to give the relationship fresh impetus at a crucial time, with Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin both exerting pressure on the EU, forcing it to rethink its own security. Merz's trips come the day

after his historic defeat in the first round of voting in the German parliament. No other postwar candidate for German chancellor has failed to win on the first ballot. He won in the second round.

#### Agencies VATICAN CITY

With all the pomp, drama and solemnity that the Catholic Church can muster, 133 cardinals on Wednesday began centuries-old rituals to elect a successor to Pope Francis, celebrating a morning Mass before opening the most geographically diverse conclave in the faith's 2,000-year history.

The dean of the College of

Cardinals, Cardinal Giovanni

Battista Re, presided over the

service, urging the voters to

unity. The world today needs a leader who can awaken consciences, he said. From the altar of St Peter's Basilica, Re prayed that the

and find a pope who prizes

cardinals can agree "on the pope that our time needs," as he offered a final set of marching orders before they enter the Sistine Chapel later Wednesday to begin the secret voting.

the cardinals are being sequestered from the outside world, their cellphones surset aside all personal interests regendered a and airwaves

Hailing from 70 countries,



around the Vatican jammed to prevent all communications until they find a new leader for the 1.4 billion-member

Francis named 108 of the

133 "princes of the church," choosing many pastors in his image from far-flung countries like Mongolia, Sweden and Tonga that had never had a cardinal before.

often marginalized countries with lower economic clout has injected an unusual degree of uncertainty in a process that is always full of mystery and suspense, with smoke signals telling the world if a pope has been elected or not. Many cardinals hadn't met

one another until last week and lamented they needed more time to get to know each another.

#### **Points tally**

Team	M	W	L	工	N/R	Pts	NRR
GT	11	8	3	0	0	16	0.793
RCB	11	8	3	0	0	16	0.482
PBKS	11	7	3	0	1	15	0.376
MI	12	7	5	0	0	14	1.156
DC	11	6	4	0	1	13	0.362
KKR	12	5	6	0	1	11	0.193
LSG	11	5	6	0	0	10-	0.469
SRH	11	3	7	0	1	7	-1.192
RR	12	3	9	0	0	6	-0.718
CSK	12	3	9	0	0	6 -	0.992

### Briefs

#### DHARAMSALA

#### IPL teams face logistical challenge



The travel plans of IPL teams which are scheduled to play in Dharamsala this week have gone for a toss due to the temporary closure of the hill town's airport after India's missile attack on Pakistan and the BCCI is weighing its options to deal with the volatile situation. Dharamsala, which is due to host the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals clash on Thursday, has one more match left on schedule -the May 11 game between Punjab and Mumbai Indians. For Thursday's game, both teams have touched base. But the usage of floodlights in the evening match is a security

#### **MUMBAI**

#### Pandya, Nehra fined after match



Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and his team were handed hefty fines for maintaining a slow over rate, while their rival side Gujarat Titans' head coach Ashish Nehra also copped a financial penalty and a demerit point for conduct "contrary to the spirit of the game" in their IPL clash here. "As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Pandya was fined Rs 24 lakh," the IPL stated. The rest of the MI team were fined Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of fees.

**NEW DELHI** 

#### Agarwal to replace RCB's **Padikkal**



Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Wednesday picked Mayank Agarwal as a replacement for injured Devdutt Padikkal, while Delhi Capitals signed Afghanistan's Sediqullah Atal in place of Englishman Harry Brook for the remainder of the Indian Premier League. Padikkal, who played 10 matches for RCB this season and scored 247 runs with the help of two halfcenturies, sustained an injury to his right hamstring. garwal has played 127 IPL matches so far, scoring 2661 runs. He joins RCB for ₹1 Crore.

**AWAKENING** Brevis, Dube star after Noor's four-for choked hosts; Super Kings end losing streak with two-wicket victory

### CSK ruin KKR's chances

KOLKATA

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders are virtually out of IPL play-offs contention after losing to Chennai Super Kings by two wickets. The hosts lost by two wickets in a tight IPL encounter against Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday.

Chasing 180, Dewald Brevis hit his maiden IPL fifty (52 in 25 balls) for CSK and Shivam Dube hit composed 45 in 40 balls to take visitors closer before MS Dhoni (17) finished it off with Anshul Kamboj.

Varun Chakravarthy was impressive with 2/18 but Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana went for runs despite takign three and two wickets respectively for KKR.

Left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad exploited the turning conditions brilliantly, picking up 4/31, to restrict Kolkata Knight Riders to 179 for 6, as Chennai Super Kings' spin trio dominated the middle overs in the home team's must-win IPL clash here on Wednesday.

After cruising at 67/1 at the power-play, KKR choked with Ahmad turning the tide.

The Afghan spinner broke KKR's rhythm immediately after the powerplay, striking twice in one over.

First, he dismissed Narine (26 off 17 balls; 4x4, 1x6), beaten in flight and stumped brilliantly by MS Dhoni. Four later, Angkrish Raghuvanshi edged behind to give CSK a double break-

KKR lost further momentum as the boundaries dried up -- at one stage, they went 24 balls without a single four -- in the middle overs.



Chennai Super Kings' Shivam Dube plays a shot during an IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Their hopes rested on Andre Russell, and he did well before Ahmad dismissed him.

#### **Bomb threat mail**

A bomb threat e-mail sent to the official account of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) caused a major security scare during the match.

The threat from an unknown e-mail ID was sent ahead of the match. The CAB alerted Kolkata Police, who immediately stepped up security measures at the venue. Earlier, both KKR and CSK players, along with BCCI officials paid tribute to the Indian armed forces for Operation Sindoor.

#### Scoreboard

KKR: R Gurbaz c Noor b Kamboj 11, S Narine st Dhoni b Noor 26, A Rahane c Conway b Jadeja 48, A Raghuvanshi c Dhoni b Noor 1, M Pandey 36\*, A Russell c Brevis b Noor 38, R Singh c Mhatre b Noor 9, R Singh 4\* Extras: (LB-4, W-2) 6. **Total:** (For 6 wickets in 20 overs) 179 **FoW:** 1-11, 2-69, 3-71, 4-103, 5-149, 6-167 **Bowling:** Khaleel 2-0-14-0, Kamboj 3-0-38-1, Ashwin 3-0-19-0. Noor 4-0-31-4, Jadeja 4-0-34-1, Pathirana 4-0-39-0.

**CSK:** A Mhatre c Rana b Arora 0, D Conway b Ali 0, U Patel c Varun b Rana 31, R Ashwin c Raghuvanshi b Rana 8, R Jadeja b Varun 19, D Brevis c Singh b Varun 52, S Dube c Rinku b Arora 45, MS Dhoni 17\*, N Ahmad c Rinku b Arora 2, A Kamboj 4\* Extras: (lb 1, w 4) 5 **Total:** (19.4 overs, 7 wickets) 183 FoW: 1-0, 2-25, 3-37, 4-56, 5-60, 6-127, 7-170, 8-172. **Bowling:** Arora 3-0-48-3, Ali 2-0-23-1, Rana 4-0-43-2, Varun 4-0-18-2, Narine 4-0-28-0, Russell 2.4-0-22-0

### Rohit bids farewell to Test cricket

India great announces retirement to end speculation after poor run with the bat in red-ball format

#### **Haridev Pushparaj**

MUMBAI

India great Rohit Sharma has announced his retirement from Test cricket after all the speculation surrounding his future in the red-ball format in recent times.

The Mumbaikar revealed his decision through a statement on his Instagram account.

"Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I'm retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent the country in whites. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format."

Although, Rohit has been an incredible batter in the ODI format, his Test career was prolific too.

The 38-year-old scored 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 centuries and 18 fifties at an average of 40.57.

Rohit's struggle with Tests as a captain began with the humbling 3-0 whitewash at home to New Zealand last year followed by the away Test



I would just like to share that I'm retiring from Test cricket. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format

Rohit Sharma, **ODI** skipper



Rohit Sharma who announced retirement from Test cricket on Wednesday, in a file pic.

series loss to Australia late last

The India ODI skipper's retirement announcement was preceded by certain reports that he is no longer part of the selectors' plans for the Indian Test team.

Rohit, who has led India to the ICC T20 World Cup victory in 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy win this year, was struggling with his red-ball form and was completely out of sorts in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy loss to Australia in December-January of 2024-25.

The Mumbaikar averaged 6.20 in the series signalling his waning touch in the longest format of the sport.

The report stated the selectors decided to move ahead not because of Rohit's age or to bring in the transition period into effect but purely on the basis of Rohit's performances and form in the red-ball format.

According to the report, the decision has also been driven by the selectors'

**Rohit in Tests** Runs

100s thought process of wanting to groom a new and young player for the Test captaincy role. The report had also

stated the Board of Control

for Cricket in India (BCCI) is

likely to back the selectors'

decision. With Rohit's decision, India will be moving on to a new Test captain before the England tour and perhaps a new approach and philosophy to play the game. However, curtains have fallen on one of the greatest players.

Teams (from)

**Delhi Capitals:** Axar Patel

(c), Jake Fraser-McGurk,

Abishek Porel, Karun Nair,

Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma,

Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc,

Nalkande, Donovan Ferreira,

Dushmantha Chameera, Faf

du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay

Punjab Kings: Shreyas lyer

(c), Yuzvendra Chahal,

Arshdeep Singh, Marcus

Stoinis, Nehal Wadhera,

Glenn Maxwell, Vyshak

Harpreet Brar, Vishnu

Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur,

Vinod, Marco Jansen, Lockie

Ferguson, Josh Inglis, Xavier

Bartlett, Kuldeep Sen, Pyla

Avinash, Suryansh Shedge,

Musheer Khan, Harnoor

Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah

Pannu, Aaron Hardie,

Omarzai.

Jadav Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

KL Rahul (wk), Tristan

Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit

Sharma, Mukesh Kumar,

Sameer Rizvi, Darshan

Tripurana Vijay,

### Narrow loss to Gujarat Titans puts Mumbai in tight corner

#### Irfan Haji MUMBAI

After narrow loss to Gujarat Titans in their rain-affected 12th Indian Premier League match on Tuesday, Mumbai Indians are now in a trickysituation in the remaining two games to qualify for playoffs. They have 14 points and face another playoff contenders Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in their remaining fixtures.

Gujarat Titans notched up their fourth consecutive win over Mumbai Indians and also ended their six-match winning streak with threewicket victory on Tuesday. now travel to Dharamshala and their travel plans and preparations may



My thinking is (that) we lost the game when we had control of it and that was disappointing

Mahela Jayawardene, MI head coach



Players exchange greetings after Gujarat Titans won the match against Mumbai Indians on Tuesday. PTI

MI ended on the losing side on Tuesday after a topsy turvy game in which fortunes fluctuated every now and then. The hosts lost two early wickets, then Will Jacks and Suryakumar Yadav lifted them with 71-run stand before middle-order collapse. Corbin Bosch's clinical finish ensured MI scored at 155/8 to give their bowlers something to defend.

Gujarat were cruising but rain halted their charge. Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult swung the pendulum

hamper due to airport clo- wickets.

Rahul Tewatia and Gerald Coetzee then took Gujarat closer in the last over when they required 15 runs as per DLS method as game was curtailed to 19 overs.

The visitors prevailed on the last ball in a dramatic fashion. Mumbai Indians' Mahela coach Jayawardene admitted his side erred in execution.

"Probably, both teams made quite a few mistakes out there in the middle and we probably made more than them. My thinking is (that) we lost the game when we in hosts favour after resumphad control of it and that was with three quick disappointing," he said.

### Desperate DC face in-form Punjab Kings

DC have endured three losses and a no result due to rain in last five games

#### PTI DHARAMSALA

Delhi Capitals will be desperate to arrest their slump and stay in contention for the playoffs when they take on a high-flying Punjab Kings in a crucial IPL match here on Thursday. DC have endured three losses and a no

result due to rain in their last five games, and are currently placed fifth on the table with 13 points from 11 matches. The Axar Patel-led side had

a disappointing time at home, managing just one win - that too via a Super Over - at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. A team that won its first

four matches would have hoped that a change of venue would bring a change in fortune, but DC's batting unit disintegrated against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last game in Hyderabad before rain washed out the contest.

DC's top order has looked vulnerable. Karun Nair's promotion as an opener in the last game backfired, while South African stalwart Faf du Plessis also perished early trying to force a boundary on a bowler-friendly pitch.

Abishek Porel has failed to capitalise on his starts, leaving DC high and dry. KL Rahul, is Cricket Association



PBKS' captain Shreyas Iyer has led from the front. PTI

their leading run-getter this Stadium is likely to be conducseason with 381 runs. However, DC still **Match starts** have depth in their

The wicket at the Himachal Pradesh



ive to batting, having produced a high-scoring game between PBKS and Lucknow Super Giants earlier, offering the DC batters a been rock solid.

chance to regain form.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, have been sensational this season, winning seven and losing just three of their 11 matches. Punjab's top order led by Prabhsimran Singh has

### **Reactions**

### Tendulkar, others sports stars laud India's action in Pak

#### PTI

#### **NEW DELHI**

Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength," said cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as he led India's sporting fraternity in lauding 'Operation Sindoor' to destroy terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan. The Indian armed forces, in the early hours of Wednesday, launched precision missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, includ-

ing the strongholds of Jaishe-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke.

The strikes were in retaliation to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

"Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. India's shield is her people. There's no room for terrorism in this world. We're ONE TEAM! Jai Hind," Tendulkar posted on 'X'. Former cricketers Virender Sehwag, Irfan

Pthan, Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan also took to the social media platform in hailing India's strong response to the barbaric attack.

"Agar koi aap par patthar

phenke toh uspar Phool Phenko, Lekin Gamle ke saath (If someone throws stones at you then respond with flowers but not without the pots they are planted in). Jai Hind," Sehwag wrote. Indian pacer Mohammed

forces.

Shami lauded the armed



"The Indian Armed Forces turned adversity into a powerful Fateh moment. Their courage and valor in



batting line-up.

Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. India's shield is her people.

Sachin Tendulkar, cricket legend

the face of danger have made us all proud. Jai hind," he posted on instagram. Dhawan added: "India

takes a stand against terrorism." Pathan and badminton ace Saina Nehwal tweeted: "Jai Hind."

Olympic bronze medalwinning boxer Vijender Singh and wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt too praised

the retaliatory strikes. "Bharat Mata ki Jai," wrote Vijender. Yogeshwar added: "India's zero tolerance towards terrorism!! Jai Hind

- Jai Jawan #sindoor."

Chess ace Vidith Gujrathi said brutal terrorist attacks like the one in Pahalgam

"I am glad India responded firmly with Operation Sindoor after the horrific Pahalgam attack. Terrorism must never go unanswered. And what a beautiful name for the operation. Bharat Mata ki Jai!," Gujrathi wrote.

should always be punished.

**Association President and** former sprinter P T Usha echoed the sentiment.

**Indian Olympic** 

"There is no place for terrorism in India and in the World," she posted.

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#### **GPCC** wins under 12 Dream 11 Cup



Ganesh Palkar Cricket Club (GPCC) won the under 12 Dream 11 Cup after defeating Goenka Associate Educational Trust (GAET) by eight wickets at the Vengsarkar Cricket Academy pitch in Oval maidan. GAET team while batting first were bundled out for a meagre 81 runs in 30.2 overs, due to some accurate bowling from Aditya Jare (3/10), Vard Gowari (2/8) and Zaib Shaikh (2/13). In reply, GPCC chased the target in 16.3 overs to reach 82/2.

#### **MUMBAI**

#### **Ketan Chawla** beats Malkeet Singh



Ketan Chawla sprang a big surprise eliminating Malkeet Singh in a round of 32 match of the ₹32 lakh prize money NSCI Baulkline 4.0 all India snooker tournament at the NSCI Dome on Wednesday. In deficit at 2-3, Chawla produced a classic display to turn the tables on the fancied Malkeet Singh 5-3, winning three frames in a row in the match set to nine frames. Mohammed **Hussain** Khan of Railways also tasted success defeating Gaurav Jaisinghani 5-1 to advance E. Pandurangiah put it across Anand Mehta and Himanshu Jain beat A.

Mudasir.

#### T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE AUCTION | Musheer Khan, Sairaj Patil, Ayush Mhatre, Raghuvanshi also attract impressive amounts

## Ankolekar gets top bid



MCA President Ajinkya Naik (C) along with Secretary Abhay Hadap on Wednesday.

#### **Haridev Pushparai** MUMBAI

Atharva Ankolekar emerged as the top buy for Eagle Thane Strikers in the T20 Mumbai League 2025 Auction.

The 24-year-old was bought by the Thane Strikers for Rs 16.25 lakh.

The young stars of Mumbai cricket were ruling the roost with Musheer Khan going for Rs 15 lakh to ARCS Andheri while Sairaj Patil was snapped up by Eagle Thane Strikers for the same amount.

The brightest young star on the Mumbai cricketing horizon Ayush Mhatre who has been making waves in the Indian Premier League (IPL) went for Rs 14.75 lakh to Triumph Nights Mumbai North East. The 17-year-old has been in cracking form in with a best score of 94 in the young players aspiring to and dominating, 'he added.

season so far.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Shams Mulani were picked uy by Sobo Mumbai Falcons and Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs for Rs 14 lakh each.

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) President Ajinkya Naik was elated with the proceedings of the day and felt the star power for the league was a big advantage.

'Suryakumar Yadav was present today and even Sarfaraz Khan was there, all India players are playing in the league and all IPL players selected till now are available. Overall the auction has gone well till now.'

The MCA President also added that the presence of senior India players like Suryakumar Yadav at the auction will act as a boost to

shine in the league. "It will definitely make the youngsters happy having some of our senior players

Referring to the pricing of the players and their abilities, Naik felt it was ultimately upto the young players selected to perform.

like Surya at the auction.'

'Cost is secondary, performance is primary. The players have to make it count," he added.

India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav, who was present at the auction, was happy with the franchises picking young stars Ayush Mhatre and Angkrish Raghuvanshi.

'Both are promising cricketers, crazy talents and good

'It's great to see young boys doing well in franchise cricket

#### **RBI** Cricket **Tournament** from May 10

#### **FPJ News Service**

MUMBA

**Top buys** 

Atharva Ankolekar

₹16.25 lakh

Sairaj Patil Eagle

**Thane Strikers** 

Ayush Mhatre,

**Triumph Nights** 

₹14.75 lakh

₹14 lakh

₹14 lakh

Tigers Mumbai

Western Suburbs

Mumbai North East

Angkrish Raghuvanshi

Sobo Mumbai Falcons

Shams Mulani, Aakash

Andheri

₹15 lakh

₹15 lakh

**Eagle Thane Strikers** 

Musheer Khan, ARCS

RBI Sports Club Mumbai is organising the prestigious 63rd Sir Benegal Rama Rau RBI Bank Shield Cricket Tournament 2025 under the auspices of Mumbai Cricket Association. The RBI Bank Shield Cricket Tournament is starting from May 10, 2025 for its Plate Group in which 18 bank/office teams will be participating.

From May 13, 2025, the Elite Group matches will start in which a total of 6 bank/office teams will take part. 24 banks/office teams will participate in the RBI Bank Shield, which provides a platform to total 400 players. The marathon event has its own charm and legacy as in past and present many Test and First-class Indian cricket players have graced the RBI Bank Shield tournament with their presence in the tournament.

"The RBI by organising the prestigious RBI Bank Shield tournament not only nurtures talent but is also doing a noble cause by organising such events which provide many job opportunities for talented youngsters which will provide them financial stability and also give them an opportunity to pursue their passion for sports," a release from the organisers said on Wednesday.

MCA, its affiliated body and its tournament committee for providing all possible facilities and support.

### TFC clinches Titans Cup

Wins final by seven wickets against Vande Matram Pratisthan

#### **FPJ News Service** MUMBAI

TFC triumphed over Vande Matram Pratisthan by seven wickets in the Titans Cup final in Nashik. TFC chased down a target of 116 with ease, reaching 120/3 in just 13.2 overs to win the title.

The highlight of the match was a composed and impactful knock by Pravin Padavi, who was named Player of the Match for his 40 runs off 33 balls, including five fours and a six, anchoring the innings with a strike rate of 121.

He was ably supported by R. Purohit, who added a quick-fire 19 off 12 balls, smashing 2 boundaries and a six at a strike rate of 158. Earlier, TFC's disciplined bowling attack restricted Vande Matram Pratisthan to 115 in 18 overs, thanks to impressive spells from U.

Sutaria, who took two wickets for just 13 runs, and O. Waghmare, who chipped in with two wickets for 18 runs in three overs.

Six competitive teams participated in the 11-day tournament that featured a total of 18 action-packed matches. The event was live streamed on SportVot in association with FPJ.

MBPT prevail in Hockey Mumbai Super League MBPT showcased their attacking prowess and tactical dominance, defeating PB with a score of 5-2 in a wellfought opening contest of the Hockey Mumbai Super League 2025 in Mumbai. In the second encounter, CR completely overpowered MP, securing a commanding 5-0 victory and making a strong statement early in the league. Both matches displayed quality hockey.



TFC won the Titans Cup T20 Cricket tournament.

### **Champions League**

### Inter Milan beat Barcelona in extra time to enter final

#### AP MILAN

Inter Milan has another Champions League final to look forward to. Once the players catch their breath, that is. In the end it took extra time, two astonishing comebacks and 13 goals to separate Barcelona and Inter and see the Italian club which was a mere seconds away from elimination - prevail 7-6 on aggregate after winning another rollercoaster encounter 4-3 on

Tuesday.

Substitute Davide Frattesi was the extra-time star for Inter, firing home in the 99th minute to leave the Barcelona players slumped to the ground while his Nerazzurri teammates including those on the bench - were racing to celebrate with him.

"I don't know what happened tonight. I'm lucky I managed to finish the game, I screamed so much (in celebration) that I saw everything black," Frattesi told

#### Scoreline

At SanSiro: Inter Milan 4 Barcelona 3 Aggregate: Inter Milan 7 Barcelona 6

Italian broadcaster Sky. Moments earlier, he'd been encouraging the already loud San Siro crowd to make more noise and the atmosphere grew more feverish after Frattesi delivered on his super-sub reputation again.

"That's part of my career," the midfielder said.

"I wasn't given so much

incredible talent, but I am always the last one to give up and the first one to believe we can do it. At 3-3, I told Marcus (Thuram) that we would go through."

Three-time European champion Inter, which lost the 2023 final to Manchester City, will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal in

**LIBRA:** Today physical and mental stress and loss

entertainment, art, pubs, boarding and lodging, and

**SCORPIO:** Today is the day for expenditure, travel,

travel. People in art, entertainment, tourism, and the

beauty industry will benefit. A long journey, picnic or

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today you may get your stuck money

back. Expect expenditure on health, houses, vehicles

industry, entertainment, art, and the medical field

will get success. Disputes with family members are

expenditure on businesses, children or entertainment.

and event management will get success. Your married

People in art, entertainment, sports, advertisement,

**AQUARIUS:** Today is the day to study and travel.

Expect expenditure related to education, interior

education, interior decoration, architecture, and the

automobile industry will benefit. A get-together or a

decoration, vehicles or travel. People in art,

party is expected in your house. Some people may suffer from

or premium services. People in the automobile

CAPRICORN: Today is the day for enjoyment,

business, travel and communication. Expect

and love lives will be romantic. It is time to see movies and plays and

attend parties. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink

business and enjoyment. Expect expenditure on

luxury items, beauty products, entertainment or

are indicated for you, so take care. Expect

expenditure on businesses, health, premium

services or vehicles. People associated with

the automobile industry will benefit. Illness of a family member is

indicated. You may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues, hernias

tour with family is indicated. You may suffer from kidney problems, hernias or eye problems. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colours: Yellow, Saffron

indicated. Some people may suffer from stomach pain, kidney

issues or sexual problems. Lucky no.: 1; Lucky colour: Orange

title. PSG beat Arsenal 1-0 in London last week in their first match. The return leg is Wednesday in Paris. Inter coach Simone

Munich on May 31 for the

Inzaghi thinks his squad has shown in wins over Barcelona in the semis and Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals that it can compete against the very best.

"My players have been extraordinary, they've put out there two monstrous performances to get to this final," he said.



Inter Milan's Davide Frattesi (L) celebrates after scoring his team's winning goal against Barcelona.

the atmosphere, raising the aver-

age temperature. The reason

for all this is human karma

against nature, and now is

the time to reap the bitter

fruits of those selfish and

arrogant attitudes and

activities. Now that we are

truly in an emergency situ-

ation, what is to be done?

To start with, we need to

(Writer is a spiritual educator &

written by Him)

popular columnist for publications

across India, Nepal & UK. Till Date,

8500+ Published Columns have been

**Changing Mindsets, Healing The Planet** 

—Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji

ecently, news channels and scientific study into climate change

of a 2-metre-tall statue of summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean

Nataraja being installed on the premis likely to disappear by late this cen-

ises of one of the world's premier tury because of global warming.

scientific institutes, CERN. Some say Such an eventuality is inevitable

that the Nataraja statue explains the because of the unstoppable momen-

structure of the atom, and therefore tum of global warming, which is

scientists decided to place it in the being caused by the emission of

CERN campus. Whereas some are greenhouse gases which trap heat in

guiding

Light

It was not so long back when activ- CHANGE. Yes! It's high time that we

ists had predicted that sooner or now become responsible in our rela-

later nature will definitely react to all tionship with nature and with each

the abuses she has been sustaining other. Unless we check and change

from human beings. For thousands the basis of our growth process and

of years nature has provided attune our lifestyle to respect the

humanity with free clean water, laws of nature, we can be sure that

food, fresh air, fertile earth, and nature will continue to strike more

every variety of benefit for our sus- ferociously.

tenance and enjoyment, and it has

given us untold wealth. But instead

of respecting the laws of nature and

using its abundance wisely, we have

indulged in an orgy of greed and

newspapers carried the news has concluded that almost all of the

# Crossword #1495 50

#### Across 1 Hairless

- 5 Sigh of contentment
- 8 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer to the gods 12Way before time (3,5)
- 14Consumer 15Improved or bettered 16Hacienda room - "alas" anagram?
- 17Might 18Outcome 20Important
- 23Des Moines is the capital of this U.S. state 24It's full form? (2,2) 25Vexed or enraged
- 28Calendar abbr. 29Rummier 30A Japanese copper coin 32Yehudi : the famous
- violinist? 34South America's "ostrich" 35Between two ports 36Long for 37Ledger entries
- 40Clothing edge 41Gone sans permission 42Start 47Tennis legend Lacoste 48Disappears
- 49\_\_\_\_state of affairs: unfortunate circumstances 50Ambulance person: abbr. 51 Nav. readings

- Down
- 1 British Thermal Unit, in short 2 Assoc. of Optical Practitioners
- 3 Laughing out loud, acronym?
- 4 Smaller moon of Mars 5 Showily pretentious
- 6 Alcoholic beverage
- 7 Lightest gas 8 Cavalry soldier 9 Jacob's twin brother 10As sound as a ? 11Quod demonstrandum
- 19Large water jug 20Minimum, abbr. 21 Very small particle 22Swing music 23Asian country 25A glue

13A long way off

- 26Bollywood's 27Horned animal 29Expel 31A Bobbsey twin 33Secured with brad 34Negligent or careless
- 36Himalayan myth 37Indian wrestling great Singh 38Female sheep fide : real and genuine ? 40Innuendo or insinuation

43 Vietnam, colloquially and in

short? 44American Helicopter Society 4520th letter of the alphabet 46The letter "S"

YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar

**ARIES:** Today is the day to study, enjoy family life, do business or travel. Expect expenditure on entertainment, businesses, education, vehicles or spouses. People in event management, the automobile industry, entertainment, art, and the travel industry will get success. A family function or travel with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin troubles, kidney problems or diabetes. Lucky no.: 3; Lucky colour: Yellow



**TAURUS:** You may travel today. Take care of your health. Expect expenditure on medical bills, travel or communication. People in art, advertising, entertainment, medicine, and banking will benefit. A dispute with your younger sibling or spouse is indicated. Some people may suffer from skin diseases, kidney issues or eye problems. Lucky no.: 8; Lucky colours: Black, Blue

**GEMINI:** Today is the day to enjoy, travel and spend. Expect expenditure on luxury items, vehicles, children or travel. People in art, entertainment, sports, and tourism will benefit. A picnic or a long journey with family is indicated. Some people may suffer from sexual problems or eye troubles. Lucky no.: 9



**CANCER:** It is a day to be with family. You might spend the time studying or enjoying the day. Expect expenditure on houses, vehicles or education. People in the automobile industry, art, entertainment, and education will benefit. You will enjoy decorating or renovating your house. Some people may suffer from diabetes or eye problems. Lucky no.: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



**LEO:** Today is the day to travel, spend and enjoy. Expect expenditure related to businesses, travel, communication or premium services. People in tourism, advertising, entertainment, art, and maintenance will benefit. A long journey or a picnic is indicated. Some people may suffer from knee pain or shoulder pain. Lucky no.: 2; Lucky colours: silver, white



**VIRGO:** Today is the day to earn, travel and study. Expect expenditure on education, travel or entertainment. People in entertainment, art, and tourism will benefit. A happy time with family members is indicated. Some people may suffer from eye problems, throat pain or skin diseases. Lucky no.: 5; Lucky colour: Green

6

2

6

**FPJ - SUDOKU - 386** 

7

5

6

4

5

9

3

9

5

6

9

9

4

6 5

### indigestion or chest pains. Lucky no.: 7; Lucky colour: Grey

**PISCES:** Today loss is indicated, so act wisely. Expect expenditure on children, premium services, maintenance or health. People working in liquor shops, bars, and pubs, or those associated with fields like art, entertainment, and insurance will benefit. A

8 8 3

26188

7 2 6 8 9

8 1 2 3 6

6 1 1 9

2 9 7



family dispute is indicated, so try to avoid it. Some people may suffer from back pain, shoulder pain or kidney problems.

### 5 1 6 t g 8 3 6 2 3 9 8 6 5 1 7 2 4 9886 6

#### 6 1 9 2 883 **WHAT TO DO:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

37 Dara, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint, 43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess. 41 Awol, 42 Initiate, 47 Rene, 48 Vanishes, 49 A sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSEs. 30 Sen, 32 Menuhin, 34 Rhea, 35 Asea, 36 Yearn, 37 Debits, 40 Hem, 25 Adhesive, 26 Esha, 27 Deer, 29 Oust, 31 Nan, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yeti, 17 May, 18 Result, 20 Major, 23 Iowa, 24 It is, 25 Angered, 28 Nov, 29 Odder, 9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Erat, 13 Afar, 19 Ewer, 20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Jive, 23 India,

epaper.freepressjournal.in

#### Solution

### Across: 1 Bald, 5 Aah, 8 Hebe, 12 Too early, 14 User, 15 Uplifted, 16 Sala, Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOP, 3 Lol, 4 Deimos, 5 Arty, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar,

#### SAIBABA & SWAMI SAMARTH MESSAGE FOR THE DAY Today is extremely important; make the

egoistic destructiveness. A recent (nikunjji@gmail.com/www.brahmakumaris.com

most of it. It is a day for learning, luxury, and contemplation.

saying that the posture of the

statue called 'Anand

Tandavam' is similar to

the motion of sub-atoms.

The most surprising

answer came from a

scientist who expressed

that Lord Shankar's

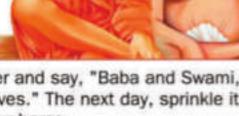
form of Nataraja symbo-

ation and destruction.

lises the cosmic dance of cre-

you sit silently and meditate. Heal your doubts and anxiety,

and surrender your worries for magic to happen. We loved the sandalwood offering.



on yourself, your family, and your home.

You will receive answers from us if

Tip for the day: Offer rose water and say, "Baba and Swami, let the fragrance of joy fill our lives." The next day, sprinkle it

Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.

16

26

30

31

46

19

36

#### **ALPHA TRIANGLE**

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

1 Tonne, abbr.

2 Astatine for the chemist

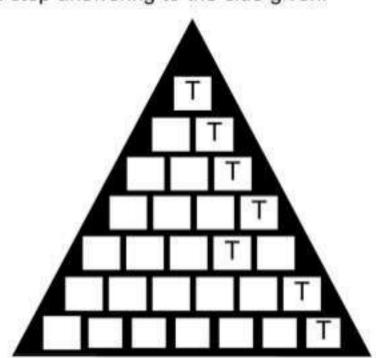
3 Chow down

4 Orient

5 Flavour

6 Certify

7 Most corpulent



T, At, Eat, East, Taste, Attest, Fattest.

Solution to Alpha Triangle

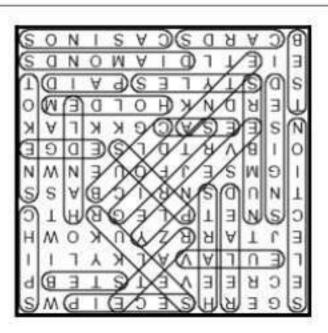
EESACGKKLA RDNKHOLDE CARDSCASINO

#### Poker

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search?

The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

Paid Ante Designs Best Diamonds Pieces Bets Edge Pros Cards Evenly Rate Gifts Case Rules Selection Casinos Handle Chips Hearts Styles Club Holdem Tokens Dealer Value Numbers



#### Go Figure Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer Use the numbers only once. Operations should be carried out sequentially. BODMAS rule does not apply. The operators: ÷ -Easy 21 3 7 4 4 Medium 29 2 3 7 6 Hard 20 2 3 8 5 $2 - 3 + 8 \times 5 = 50$ $92 = 7 - 3 \times 2 \times \xi - muib9M$

This is a test to gauge your mental flexibility, creativity and cunning. Good Luck! (Example: 16 O in a P. Answer: 16 Ounces in a Pound) 13 L in a B D

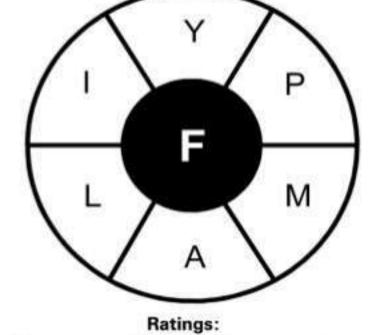
1Z = E x + / + x L -

Answer: 13 Loaves in a baker's dozen

Our Solutions:

#### **BULL'S EYE**

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Each word can use a letter only once and must contain the central letter. There should be at least one 7-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as



05 average; 06 good; 08 outstanding.

AMPLIFY, fail, family, film, filmy, flap, flay, flip SOLUTION:

### 12 13 15 21 22 28 33 38

Across

49

1 Hairless 5 Sigh of

contentment 8 In Greek mythology she was cup-bearer

to the gods 12Way before time (3,5)

14Consumer 15Improved or bettered 16Hacienda room -"alas" anagram ?

17Might 18Outcome

20Important 23Des Moines is the capital of this U.S. state

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abbr. 51 Nav. readings Down

Crossword #1495

23

42 43

48

50

1 British Thermal Unit, in short

2 Assoc. of Optical **Practitioners** 3 Laughing out loud,

acronym? 4 Smaller moon of

5 Showily pretentious 6 Alcoholic beverage

7 Lightest gas 8 Cavalry soldier

9 Jacob's twin brother 10As sound as a ? 11Quod demonstrandum

13A long way off | 19Large water jug 20Minimum, abbr. 21Very small particle 22Swing music

23Asian country

25A glue 26Bollywood's \_\_\_\_ Deol

27Horned animal 29Expel

51

31A Bobbsey twin 33Secured with brad 34Negligent or careless

45

36Himalayan myth 37Indian wrestling great Singh

38Female sheep 39\_\_\_ fide : real and genuine?

40Innuendo or insinuation 43Vietnam, colloquially

and in short? 44American Helicopter Society

4520th letter of the alphabet 46The letter "S"

#### **SUDOKU**

43 Nam, 44 AHS, 45 Tee, 46 Ess. 37 Dara, 38 Ewes, 39 Bona, 40 Hint, 11 Nan, 33 Nailed, 34 Remiss, 36 Yeti, 25 Adhesive, 26 Esha, 27 Deer, 29 Oust, 20 Min, 21 Atom, 22 Jive, 23 India, 9 Esau, 10 Bell, 11 Erat, 13 Afar, 19 Ewer, 5 Arty, 6 Ale, 7 Hydrogen, 8 Hussar, Down: 1 BTU, 2 AOP, 3 Lol, 4 Deimos,

sad, 50 EMT, 51 SSEs. A 94, ¿sədsineV 84, 'ənəЯ 74, 'əbisinl 24 36 Yeam, 37 Debits, 40 Hem, 41 Awol, 30 Sen, 32 Menuhin, 34 Rhea, 35 Asea, 24 It is, 25 Angered, 28 Nov, 29 Odder, 17 May, 18 Result, 20 Major, 23 lowa, early, 14 User, 15 Uplifted, 16 Sala, Across: 1 Bald, 5 Aah, 8 Hebe, 12 Too



WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

### fitness & sustainability

run. Try bleaching

a portion of your

hair, some area

which is not

If your hair

are in good

condition after

and scalp

much visible.

### **Essential Gardening Tools:** The must-have watering can

Savitha B

skilled gardener maximizes the efficiency of every available resource. In this vibrant realm of horticulture, where plants thrive and unfold their beauty, a pivotal instrument commands attention—the watering can. Beyond its utilitarian purpose, a watering can is a gardener's trusted companion, a vessel of nurturing care that ensures plants receive the attention they need. In this article, we will explore the different types of watering cans and delve into their varied uses, highlighting why these simple yet essential tools are a must-



Seedling care: Delicate seedlings require careful attention, and a watering can with

a rose attachment or a fine spout is perfect for providing a gentle shower of water. This prevents seedlings from being disturbed or damaged during the critical early stages of growth.

Disease prevention: Watering cans contribute to plant health by minimizing water contact with foliage. Splashing water onto leaves can spread diseases, and the precise application of a watering can helps keep plants healthier and more resistant to pests and pathogens.

**Sakhi Pandey** 

tress is a very

term thrown

common

around

casually

whenever one is

of various factors

known as stressors

feeling pressurized

or burdened because

like overloading work,

the form of emotional

well-being. Managing

maintaining a healthy

lifestyle. So let's learn

a bit more about it.

stress is essential for

strain but also as

affecting overall

physical symptoms,

functions, exams, etc. It

can manifest not only in

**Types of watering cans:** 

**Traditional watering can:** Recognizable by its

classic design, featuring a long spout and a curved handle, the traditional watering can is a timeless favorite among gardeners. Its simplicity and functionality make it suitable for a wide range of plants, from delicate flowers to hearty vegetables. Rose watering can:

With a rose attachment at the end of the spout, this type of watering can ensures a gentle and even distribution of water. Ideal for nurturing young seedlings and plants with sensitive foliage, the rose watering can prevents soil

erosion and minimizes

the risk of overwatering.

Haws watering can:

Characterized by its elegant and ergonomic design, the Haws watering can is a favorite among avid gardeners. Its sleek shape, balance, and long spout make it easy to reach plants in tight spaces or hanging baskets. Haws cans are often made of highquality materials, ensuring durability and longevity.

**Self-watering can:** Modern gardening has introduced self-watering cans with built-in reservoirs or mechanisms that allow for automatic watering. These innovative cans are particularly convenient for those with busy schedules or for plants that require consistent moisture levels.

**Uses of watering cans:** 

Targeted watering: Watering cans allow gardeners to target specific areas or plants that require extra care. This is especially crucial in areas with diverse plant types or varying water needs.

Precision watering: Watering cans offer a level of precision that hoses and sprinklers cannot match. Gardeners can direct water precisely to the base of plants, minimizing water wastage and ensuring that the roots receive adequate hydration.

So, the next time you embark on your gardening adventure, don't forget to grab your watering can—it's the magical wand that brings life and vitality to your green

**Amritha K** 

olouring your hair is the new 'it' thing; social media is proof! The introduction of home-grown, vegan and cruelty-free brands seems responsible for the increasing number of people colouring the tresses in pretty, funky colours. For natural Indian hair, which varies from jet black to a deep brown, bleaching is the first step in hair colouring. The dark shade of our hair has to be lightened if you want the preppy colours to be visible. When bleach is applied to hair, it oxidises the melanin granules that make it look black. Because this causes hair damage, your hair needs to be in good condition before you bleach it. If your hair is dry or damaged, wait a month or two before you bleach it. While you're waiting, you can revive your hair. At least two weeks before you bleach your hair, start preparing it - that is, by applying oil regularly, pausing hair styling and straightening

We've all heard it and still hear it -'don't bleach your hair, it ruins it,' but well-behaved women (and men) seldom have fun (or something like that), right?! So, while there will be certain damage to your hair, proper hair care after bleaching and colouring can go a long way. Here are certain points you need to keep in mind before bleaching

your hair.

Гаке a look.

and regularly

conditioning.

Things to keep in mind before bleaching hair

**Know your hair type:** Is your hair suited for bleach? Bleaching dries the hair and causes damage, so if your hair is dry and prone to damage, you may want to improve your hair health before bleaching hair.

Research different brands:

Spend time and search for the types of bleaching agents available and what your hair specialist is likely to use. Also, decide whether you want to go for a store-bought bleach or a natural ingredient.

■ Bleach makes the hair dry: It is no secret that bleaching causes the hair strands to go dry, and hair strands are damaged. Are you ready to let your hair go through that damage? Consult a

professional as to what steps to take to minimise damage.

No going back: Before you bleach all ■ Choose the hair, do a test

**skin tone:** Not all skin tones will suit all shades of hair tones. If you cannot make up your mind, try doing a colour test with computer images. Seeing yourself in different hair tones can help you decide better. Another thing that you can do is visit a wig store and try different coloured wigs. Ooor, you can just go crazy and

a colour to suit your

the bleach, that colour your head the shade you means it suits wish - who's you, and you stopping can go ahead and you! bleach throughout. ■ Test before a complete change: Whatever your decision regarding

bleaching hair, always keep in mind that there is no going back once you bleach. So, think twice or even thrice and take a decision with all confidence.

require extra care: Normal hair requires care for health and bounce, and for bleaching hair white, you need to be careful to cover all the strands. You need to be careful about washing bleached hair and check the changing colour as time passes. Use dry shampoo as far as possible. Try to keep hair tangle-free.

Your hair will

Check scalp health: Your scalp needs to be in good health before a hair bleaching session. If you have any infection, are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation, have lice or scratchy scalp, try to get that healed first. Bleaching can worsen these conditions.

Use products made for

bleached hair.

### Bleaching your hair? **Know this first**

**Step-by-step guide to bleach your hair** 

Now that you have an idea of whether bleaching is suitable for your hair, here is a step-by-step on how you can do it at home.

• Step 1: Get all your supplies ready - bleach powder, developer, plastic bowl, brush and

Step 2: Wear some roots. old clothes.

Step 3: Section your hair. Step 4: Mix the developer and bleach (as per instructions).

Step 5: Apply the bleach and cover your hair with aluminium foil or a plastic bag.

• **Step 6:** Apply the colour first to the tips and mid-lengths of your hair as they take longer to lighten than roots.

• Step 7: Let the bleach sit for at least 20 minutes before you apply the colour to the

**Step 8:** Do not leave the bleach on for more than 30-45 minutes.

tresses!

• **Step 9:** After 45 minutes, rinse the bleach out thoroughly using a mild shampoo to balance the pH levels of your scalp. Step 10: Air-dry your hair, and

now you are free to colour your

**Understanding the risk factors and importance of** 

early detection in ovarian cancer

Warning: If you notice redness, itching, or burning after you have kept the bleach on

> your hair for a while, please wash the off and consult a doctor. *Note:* If

you are having second thoughts about bleaching your hair at home, go to a salon and get it done by a professional.

### weight gain, scientists reveal

Stress is linked with

However, what exactly is stress?

Stress is nothing but a physical, bodily response to stressors around us. When under a lot of pressure or feeling stressed, our body thinks that we are going under attack and therefore secretes a lot of hormones to deal with the stress or to fight back. If this mental state is prolonged, it could lead to some awful effects on health and in some cases - death, as explained by Hans Selye's GAS Model of Stress.

One of the adverse effects

weight gain. Although,

considering stress can

of stress on health is

lead to worse diseases like diabetes, weight gain doesn't seem to be such a bad effect of stress. However, gaining weight due to stress something take lightly Weight gain itself can

lead to heart problems, cancer, diabetes,

So then why go in for "Comfort foods" strokes and even and not something depression at times. Stress healthy? is one of the main reasons weight is gained by a lot of people around the world,

While going through a stressful episode, our body as proven by science and secretes a hormone scientists working on the known as cortisol, also adverse effects of stress. known as "the stress When one is under a lot hormone." Secretion of stress, they might start losing appetite as a result, of this hormone into the body increases however, when you start the level of insulin in experiencing chronic stress, i.e., when stressors are the body. An increase in insulin leads to a present in the environment decrease in the blood over a long period of time, sugar level. Therefore, generally for over a few this fall in blood sugar months, a person is said to level makes one crave be experiencing chronic for food that is sugary stress. With chronic stress and sweet as well as comes overeating, as stress fatty foods in general. actually makes one more That is why we choose hungry than usual due to all having an ice cream or the hormonal imbalances cake over a full course in the body. healthy meal or a bowl In chronic stress, the of vegetables or salad. body enters survival mode, It's not just because it triggering excessive hunger tastes better but also and overeating as it falsely perceives calorie depletion because your body practically demands from stress-induced efforts, it. That's why sugary, despite not having actually fatty foods are called burned those calories. comfort foods—stress This creates a compelling makes us crave them, urge to compensate for

Why is it important to keep our weight in check? Although the

weight gain is caused

due to stress, the

factors inculcate overeating and eating junk food, which is how we gain weight generally and therefore it is extremely unhealthy. ■ First things first, weight gain affects more than how our body looks on the outside. It is responsible for causing a number of health issues like heart problems and diabetes and thus obesity needs to be kept in check and one of the ways to do that is to take less stress or avoid overeating and exercising more often

fruits, etc. Second, it battles with the shape of your body. A lot of people feel more confident when they look their best and weight gain as well as loss due to stress disrupts that state of being and therefore becomes a problem.

and eating foods like

**MUMBAI** 

Ovarian cancer remains one of the most challenging gynecological cancers due to its subtle symptoms and late detection. This article sheds light on the risk factors of ovarian cancer. Furthermore, know why timely detection can be lifesaving for women.

Ovarian cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the ovaries and often goes undetected until it has spread. In advanced stages, symptoms may include abdominal bloating, pelvic pain, frequent urination, and changes in bowel habits. Risk factors include age, family history, and genetic mutations like BRCA1/2. Awareness and early check-ups are key to improving outcomes and saving lives.

"One of the strongest known risk factors for ovarian cancer is genetics. Women who carry inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes are at a much higher risk of developing ovarian cancer. These genetic

mutations can be passed down from either parent, and women with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer should consider genetic counseling. Besides BRCA mutations, Lynch syndrome, a condition linked to colon and endometrial cancers, also increases the risk. Age is another significant factor. Most ovarian cancers are diagnosed in women over 50, with risk increasing as women grow older. However, it's important to note that younger women are not immune, especially if other risk factors are present. A family history of ovarian, breast, or Survival rate for ovarian cancer significantly improves with early diagnosis. If caught in the early stages (Stage I), a woman will be able to improve her quality of life. Unfortunately, due to vague symptoms like bloating, pelvic pain, or changes in bowel habits, many cases are diagnosed at a later stage. Remember, timely intervention is key to detect and manage this cancer," said Dr Kekin Gala, Gynecologist Apollo

Spectra, Mumbai.

The neuroscience of childhood

stress

The science is

unequivocal: chronic

alters the architecture

stress in childhood

of the developing

areas responsible

regulation, attention,

and memory. Over

time, this can result

in anxiety disorders,

depression, learning

But just as early

difficulties, and

behavioral issues.

stress can harm,

the good news is

brain. It affects

for emotional

Explaining about the screening for this cancer, Dr Deep Vora, Oncologist, Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai said, "There is currently no effective standard screening test for ovarian cancer, which makes awareness all the more crucial. However, regular pelvic exams, ultrasound imaging in high-risk cases, and being vigilant about symptoms can help detect it earlier.



options with their doctors. While Pap smears do not detect ovarian cancer, regular gynecological visits help identify changes that might signal a problem. For those at high risk, transvaginal ultrasounds and CA-125 blood tests may be recommended. Lifestyle choices also matter. Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking, and staying physically active can help lower the risk. Being informed about one's family history and understanding symptoms will help women to seek timely treatment. So, early awareness, genetic screening, and informed choices can make a

#### **Dr Maitri Thakker**

Clinical Psychologist, Lilavati Hospital Mumbai

hildren are not small adults. Their minds are still forming, still fragile. And yet, the pressures we place on them today could break even the strongest among us. Mental Health Awareness Month serves as a critical reminder that mental wellness begins early. In recent years, clinicians, educators, and parents alike have witnessed a worrying trend: childhood is no longer the sanctuary it once was. Across age groups, children are reporting heightened levels of stress, anxiety, sadness, and isolation. It's time we pause and ask are we doing enough to protect their mental health?

#### The changing face of childhood

In a world that increasingly celebrates achievement, independence and digital connectivity, one group is quietly shouldering a burden it was never meant to bear our children. The idyllic idea of a carefree childhood is being replaced by a reality of relentless academic pressure, screen-induced overstimulation, social comparison, and emotional isolation. As adults look ahead, children today are being pushed to grow up faster than ever before often at the cost of their mental well-being.

### **Childhood under pressure:**

the perceived calorie loss

during the stress response.

### The silent crisis in children's mental health

leading to weight gain,

especially belly fat.

The invisible weight of **expectations** 

Children rarely say, "I'm anxious" or "I feel low" Instead, they show us. A once-active child becoming withdrawn. A playful child suddenly erupts in anger. Physical symptoms like frequent headaches or stomach pain, trouble sleeping, or changes in appetite may mask deeper emotional struggles. Yet, in our rush to correct behavior, we often overlook its roots. Labeling a child as "difficult," "lazy," or "overdramatic" risks missing the distress signals they're sending out in the only way they know how.

From school assessments to cocurricular achievements, the bar for "success" keeps rising. Children as young as five are expected to display focus, discipline, and selfregulation, even as their brains are still developing the capacity to manage complex emotions. Adolescents are bombarded with unrealistic standards from academic excellence to body image through social media and peer culture. For many, childhood has become less about play and more about performance.

What does stress look like in a child?

Unlike adults, children rarely express their distress in words. They show it in behavior, sleep patterns, appetite changes, somatic complaints, or emotional outbursts. What might seem like "acting out" or "withdrawing" may be a child's only way to say: "I'm not okay."

**Common stress** triggers in children: **Academic pressure:** High expectations, fear of

failure, comparison with peers, and the looming pressure of exams can overwhelm young minds. Even well-meaning encouragement can become burdensome if children internalize it as performance-based worth. Every child has their own pace and personality; comparing them to peers and affirming achievement over effort can lead to emotional upheaval and distress.



Family changes & conflict: Events like divorce, the loss of a loved one, or even a house move can disrupt a child's sense of safety. Constant arguments or financial tension at home can lead to anxiety, confusion, or emotional shutdown.

**Overscheduling:** Many children today have little time for rest or unstructured play. Between school, classes, and extra curricular, they are often exhausted, emotionally depleted, and struggling silently.

Peer pressure & social media: The digital world exposes children to constant comparison, validationseeking, and cyber

bullying. The pressure to

"fit in" or appear perfect can deeply impact their self-esteem. **Health issues:** Chronic illnesses whether the child's or a family member's can create anxiety,

insecurity, and feelings of helplessness. Even missing school due to frequent colds can increase academic stress. **Uncertainty about** 

the future: Shifts in school routines, friendships, or parental work schedules may make children feel powerless or unsafe, especially when they're not included in

that early support can heal. The developing brain is

remarkably plastic it can reorganize and recover, especially when nurtured in safe, validating environments.

#### What caregivers must remember

life-saving difference for women."

We must replace the expectation of premature maturity with an understanding of developmental needs. Every tantrum, shutdown, or anxious refusal to attend school may be a cry for help—not a failure of discipline. Here's how we can support children more effectively:

Listen to create emotional safety with **presence**, **not pressure**: When a child shares something difficult, resist the urge to fix or lecture. Sometimes, being heard is enough. Encourage open conversations about feelings.

Model emotional hygiene: Let children see you express emotions in healthy ways. Show them that sadness or feeling overwhelmed is part of being human. Demonstrate how you manage stress and respond to vulnerability

Limit screen time, increase green

time: Play is essential—movement, nature, and unstructured time build resilience, creativity, and connection. Encourage reading, music, and hands-on activities that ground and soothe.

**Watch, don't dismiss:** Notice even subtle changes in behavior. **Be curious, not critical:** Seek to understand the reason behind a child's behavior

A collective responsibility:

Health Awareness Month, let's stop romanticizing resilience and start

Children are shaped by the adults, environments, and systems around them. Instead of asking, "What's wrong with this child?" to "What happened to this child, and how can we help?" This Mental

rather than rushing to correct it.

conversations about creating environments where children don't need it just to survive. change. Disclaimer: The Free Press Journal bears no responsibility for the content that appears on this page.



Arjun-Aamir collaboration?

llu Arjun was in Mum-

bai a few days ago to attend WAVES 2025. A picture of him with Aamir Khan has gone viral on social media, and netizens are wondering whether the Bollywood star and the Icon star are all set to collaborate for a project. A netizen tweeted, "Guest appearance in #AA22??" Another netizen thought that maybe Allu Arjun met Aamir for the latter's project Mahabharat, he tweeted, "Mahabharat gurunchi anukunta (I think about the *Mahabharata*)."

One more X user wrote, "What is cooking between Tollywood Icon Star #AlluArjun and bollywood star #AamirKhan as both met at Aamir residence.. Any collaboration on cards? What do you think?"

#### **Aamir's ambitious project Mahabharat**

few days ago, in an interview with The Hollywood A few days ago, in an interview with a ne nonywood Reporter India, when Aamir was asked about his ambition, the 60-year-old actor said, "I always believe in stories and I have always loved stories. So, my ambition is to continue to tell stories which touch our hearts. The one other ambition that I have which I am hoping to start work on this year, is working on the Mahabharat. That's one of my biggest ambitions. So, fingers crossed, hoping to start this year. It will take a while because just the writing process will take a few years."



#### **Aamir's tamil debut**

↑ amir is all set to make his Tamil debut with the film Coolie. The movie stars Rajinikanth in the lead role and has Aamir has a cameo in the movie. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, it also features Nagarjuna, Upendra, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj, and Shruti Haasan. The movie is slated to release on August 14, 2025. It will clash with Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani starrer War 2.

# Nikita Dutta reflects on her childhood shaped by rules and restrictions Grounded by Giscipline

ctress Nikita Dutta opened up about her formative years, sharing that her childhood was marked by a strong sense of discipline, structure, and routine. Raised in an environment where rules and responsibilities took precedence, she credited this upbringing for instilling values of order and perseverance-traits that continue to influence her personal and professional life. At a recent event, Nikita also shared an interesting revelation about her early ambitions-

she once wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue a career in the civil services. Long before she stepped into the world of showbiz, the actress envisioned herself serving the nation as a civil servant, reflecting the disciplined upbringing that shaped her early years. Speaking about her career journey,

the Kabir Singh actress stated, "I

come from an Army family-everyone around me has served in the forces in some capacity. Naturally, growing up in that disciplined environment, I too was inclined towards a structured path. At one point, I even wanted to appear for the UPSC exams and pursue civil services. For someone like me, who has now chosen acting as a profession, the shift feels huge." "We grew up with so many rules, routines, and restrictions-everything was about discipline, duty, and order. Choosing a career in the creative arts, where unpredictability is

think that grounding has helped me stay focused and resilient in an industry that often feels chaotic," Dutta added. Meanwhile, on the work front, Nikita Dutta made her acting debut in 2014 with the romantic drama Lekar Hum *Deewana Dil.* She has appeared in films

the norm, was a complete departure from what I was used to. But somewhere, I

and Khakee: The Bihar Chapter. Most recently, she featured in the heist action thriller Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins. Directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal, the film also starred Saif Ali Khan, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Kunal Kapoor. It

premiered on Netflix on

April 25, 2025.

such as Gold, Kabir Singh, The Big Bull,



### Unfiltered and furious

ina Khan on Tuesday took to Instaviews on the sexual assault and murder that took place in Nishat, Srinagar, in Kashmir. The actress shared three Instagram stories in which she discussed about things like distinguish between rape and sexual assault, blaming alcohol for crimes, and more. She also once again posted about the Pahalgam attack in one of her stories.

The Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actress shared a long note which read, "Can someone for gods sake teach these Morons the Difference between sexual assault and rape.. A Rape is a Rape. A Murder is a Murder. A Sexual Assault may differ in description but it's just the Precursor of Rape. It only means that the perpetrators COULD NOT do it rather than DID NOT do it. A Rapist blames everything else than Himself. Don't act like that Criminal. Don't use Alcohol to give the Criminal a 'Free Get

Hina Khan condemns sexual assault and murder in Srinagar, gram to share her urging society to stop justifying crimes and blaming alcohol or circumstances

> Away Card'. Do not Justify Rape. Do not even Justify Sexual Assault. Not in the name of Religion, Community, Geography or Attire. These Demons Exist everywhere, in every community, every religion..lurking for Opportunity. Alcohol causes many things but it doesn't make a Good Man a Rapist! Stop Alcohol Blaming and Escapism. Good Men can Handle Alcohol just as they Handle Superior Physical Power compared to a Woman, they use it to Protect Women. A Rapist is not Less than a Killer. He's More. Nothing justifies his actions. it's high time we call out what's happened without mincing words just because it's done by a Kashmiri Muslim and blame Alcohol for

your so called Agenda (sic)."

Trailer for Very Parivarik Season 2 is out now

he Viral Fever (TVF), has officially released the trailer for Season 2 of its hit family comedy series, Very Parivarik. The new season is set to premiere on May 9, with fresh episodes

After the success of its debut season, *Very Parivarik* returns with more

laughter, layered storytelling, and generous dose of chaotic family drama. The trailer teases

a meta-narrative where Shelly's life becomes a show within the show, continuing the heartfelt and humorous tone that struck a chord with audiences the first time around.

Speaking about the upcoming season, Vaibhav Bundhoo, creator and director, said, "Season 2 of Very Parivarik has a lot more jokes than The Godfather (Part III) and Schindler's List combined. I've been told to get therapy, but instead, I made this show. Please enjoy the trailer; it's entirely organic and sourced from

The trailer is now live on TVF's official YouTube channel, inviting viewers to reunite with their favorite dysfunctional family — now back on a bigger, bolder, and funnier platform.

No more typecast

> Amol Parashar opens up about being typecast for playing 'cute' and 'likeable' roles

**CJ Desk** 

ctor Amol Parashar recently discussed how he was often typecast in roles that portrayed him as "cute" or "likeable." Parashar revealed that while many of the roles offered to him leaned towards this familiar image, he made a conscious effort to expand his range and take on more diverse, complex characters that break away from the stereotype.

Explaining his decision to embrace diversity in his roles, Parashar said, "Yes, those kinds of roles-sweet or likeable-were definitely coming my way quite often. I'd say a large majority of the roles offered were like that. But the work I've actually done hasn't always followed that trend." "Sometimes, audiences remember you for roles that are more visible or popular. For

example, the show I did with TVF ran for three seasons, so that stays with people. But then there's *Chitwan*, and Sardar Udham, in which the words 'cute' or 'likeable' don't even apply. Those were completely different genres and characters-like a legendary historical figure, a DJ, or even a delivery boy. I've tried to bring variety to the roles I choose," he explained.

edaper:freepressjournal.in

Speaking about his latest project, Gram Chikitsalay, Amol shared, "As an actor, I always look for strong stories and well-written characters. That was the first draw. Secondly, the creative team-The Viral Fever (TVF) and Prime Video-are known for exceptional storytelling. The concept, the script, and the team behind the project were all deeply appealing. TVF has been creating some of the best content in the country for years. So, for me, there was no reason to say

'It is a very dark place'

Bigg Boss 17 fame Soniya Bansal quits acting after 5 films

**CJ Desk** 

ctress Soniya Bansal, who shot to fame with her participation in Bigg Boss 17, has decided to quit acting after working in five films. She stated that while she has the work and money, she was lacking peace in her life, and she now wants to be a life coach and guide people. In an interaction with ETimes, Soniya shared, "We are so much into doing everything for others that we forget ourselves. I realised I don't even know what my true purpose is anymore. In this race to be perfect, to stay relevant, and to earn more, I lost myself."

"Money, fame, popularity I had it all. But what I didn't have was beace. And what will you do with the money if you're not at peace? You may have everything externally, but if you're empty inside, it's a very dark place to be," she added. Opening on why she now wishes to be a life coach and spiritual healer, the actress stated, "I want to deeply study what I really want in life. This industry gave me recognition, but it didn't give me stillness. It didn't allow me to breathe. I don't

> want to pretend anymore. I want to live authentically, for myself and be a Life Coach and Spiritual Healer." "You never know when your life will change. You never know when death might knock. And if we haven't lived truthfully by then, what's the

> > point of this entire journey?" she quipped.



Kangana Ranaut lauds 'Operation Sindoor', urges

SRK's stylish thanks

his team for introducing him to the Met Gala

Shah Rukh Khan thanks Sabyasachi Mukherjee and

ctress-turned-politician hailed the Indian Army

on Wednesday for the

successful 'Operation

Sindoor' — an operation

carried out to obliterate terrorist

camps in Pakistan. While at it, she

stated that people are nervous since

the country is at war now, but we

While interacting with the media in

Delhi, Kangana said, "The country is at

war right now, so obviously, we are all

very nervous. But our security forces

are protecting us, and we all must pray

that may God protect them and help

them succeed in their missions. We

should all pray that the country be safe

hah Rukh Khan has be-

come the talk of the town

because of his debut at Met

2025.

from all kinds of dangers."

**CJ Desk** 

actor's look at the

red carpet surely

stole the show,

and his fans are

going gaga over it. On

Tuesday, SRK

took to Insta-

gram to share

some pictures

from a photo-

shoot that he

did at Met Gala, and in the cap-

tion he thanked

designer Sabya-

sachi Mukherjee

tion wrote, "Thx

@sabyasachioffi-

cial & ur whole

team for introducing me to the Met

Gala. It's not my

'space' but u made

me feel so comfort-

able...becos u, like

me, believe...Style

& Fashion...is just

being who you

are. And all of u

made me feel

like a

' K '

(sic)

SRK in the cap-

and his team.

must trust and pray for our *jawans*.

**CJ Desk** 

public to pray for Indian armed forces amid conflict

# **OPERATION** SINDOR Stars salute forces

Actors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Kangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. The Indian Army said nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including Bahawalpur which is a major base of Jaish-e-Mohammad terror outfit, were hit under 'Operation Sindoor'.



"The fighter's fight begins... No stopping until the mission is accomplished! The entire NATION is with you.

@PMOIndia @HMOIndia **#OperationSindoor** JAI HIND"



Shri @narendramodi and our Indian forces. India stands tall and strong. Jai Hind!"

— Ajay Devgn



"Jai Hind. Jai Mahakaal" — Akshay Kumar



"Respect and gratitude to our armed forces" — Kajol



"May justice be served. Jai Hind #OperationSindoor" — Allu Arjun



"Jai Hind, Jai Sena **#OperationSindoor**" — Vicky Kaushal

### Surbhi slams comparisons with Dhanashree



**Rashita Sahni** 

urbhi Chandna, who was recently trolled for looking like Dhanashree Verma, hit back at haters as she called them 'jobless' for comparing the two. Major trolling began right after Dhanashree Verma and cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal officially got divorced on March 20, 2025. While netizens kept trolling Dhanashree on her social media pages, some reached Surbhi's

account as well and started trolling her.

Surbhi, in an exclusive conversation with *The* Free **Press** Journal, spoke about it and said, "It's neither her (Dhanashree's) fault that she looks like me if people think this

look like her. People are sitting at home and they're jobless, hence they're writing all this. What more do I say on this? There's nothing I can say. You're sort of looking for resemblance and you got it, so what now? People really write weird things and you know what? I've realised one thing, people are sitting at home and they have no work, so they will write whatever they want. They're jobless. That's it. I've nothing more to say."

way, nor is it my fault that I

Earlier, Surbhi had ex-



to watch the full interview on FPJ's YouTube channel

pressed her interest meeting Dhanashree and discussing their resemblance. She had even joked about seven people in the world having similar faces and how she has

found one in

Dhanashree.

### India must stay united



s the nation proceeds to next steps in the onescalagoing and possibly open diplomatic channels against its notorious neighbour Pakistan, veteran actor Anupam Kher has called for national unity, and

to exercise caution.

On Wednesday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a video in which he spoke to the camera, and urged the countrymen to exercise restraint, and be careful while sharing information on social media.

He said, "Jai Hind, friends. Today, India has taken a decisive step under the leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and with the support of the Indian Army. Our country is a peaceful nation, yet it knows how to retaliate against its citizens and its brave soldiers with fierce terrorist at-

when we used to remain silent. But today, India has changed. We all know this. I am making this video as a responsible Indian citizen". He further mentioned that this action is against terror-

tacks. Those days are gone,

ism, and is for self-defense and justice. He shared, "In such circumstances, we also have some responsibilities, and it is very important for us to take care of some things. For example, No video, photo or message should be forwarded on social media without inspection. This spreads fear and confusion. No photo should be taken or shared in any army movements, bunkers or sensory places. No emergency services should be blocked. Call 100101102108 only in real emergencies. Stay away from high-risk areas, especially from border areas, until further instructions are received from the government. Only rely on government announcements and verified news sources".

### Inside KJo's battle

Filmmaker opens up about battling dysmorphia, reveals reason behind rapid weight loss

**CJ Desk** 

mmaker Karan Johar has always been vocal about his body image issues, and in a new podcast, he has opened up about battling body dysmorphia. He revealed that he feels disgusted to look at his body in the mirror, and that it is more than just feeling uncomfortable in one's body.

During his appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast, KJo shared, "I have body dysmorphia. It is a condition when you just cannot look at yourself in the mirror without any clothes on. It is when you are ashamed of your lems that I needed to fix, and I've now body and you are awkward without been working on correcting them." clothes on. I am still not okay with looking at my body and feeling

good about it." When he was asked about the difference between being mildly uncomfortable in one's body and having body dysmorphia, Karan explained, "You are uncomfortable, yes. But you don't feel disgusted looking at your body. That is body dysmorphia. Mujhe ghinn aati hai. Main apne aap ko dekh hi nahi sakta bina kapdo ke. Now

to hide his body, because he was "ashamed" of it.

#### **Karan Johar's weight**

loss method KJo also broke his silence on his drastic physical transformation, which made people wonder if was using drugs like ozempic to lose weight. The Dharma head honcho shared, "I have always been battling the bulge. I have done 1000 diets, 500 workouts, everything that was available to combat it. Years later, I did my blood works and found out that I had certain thyroid issues and other prob-

He went on to say, "For 15-20 years, I had no idea that I had certain thyroid fluctuations that needed treatment. But when I finally found out, I started a diet called OMAD - One Meal A Day. The first seven days were very difficult, but I did it for seven months. I did not have lactose, gluten and sugar during that regime."

ternational event. Sabyasachi Mukherjee

#### **SRK's outfit at** Met Gala 2025

"Humein khatra nahi hai, hum khud

Explaining the meaning behind the

name of the mission, the BJP MP

shared, "PM Modi has named this

mission 'Operation Sindoor', because

the husbands of our mothers and

daughters were killed right in front of

their eyes and they were widowed by

the terrorists. Those deaths are now

luted the Indian armed forces for tar-

getting and attacking terror camps in

Pakistan with precision. "Operation

Sindoor: Zero tolerance to terror. The

Indian Armed Forces launched a

precision mission, Operation Sindoor;

9 terror camps across Pakistan and

Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir

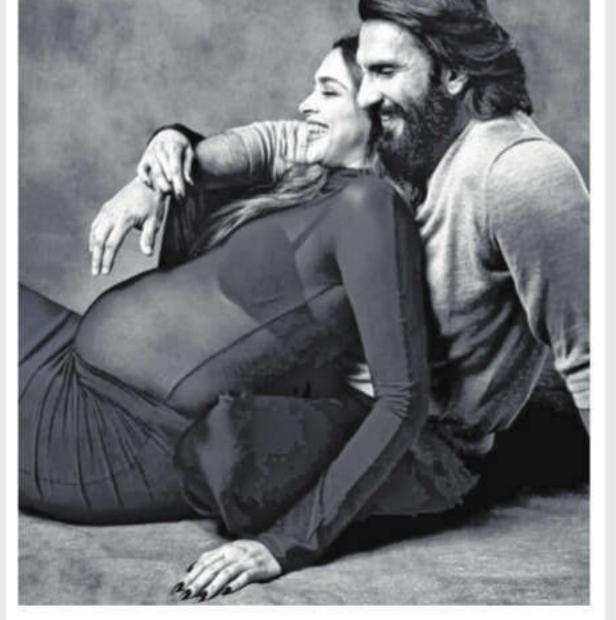
neutralized (sic)," she wrote on X.

Earlier in the day, Kangana had sa-

khatra hai," she added.

being avenged now."

The Jawan actor wore an all-black suit along with high-waist trousers, a black silk shirt, and a tailcoat. He wore multiple rings and necklaces, and one of them had an oversized K pendant which of course was referring to his tag of King Khan. While Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt had attended Met Gala earlier, Shah Rukh Khan is one of the first Indian male actor to attend the event. Well, this year, along with him Priyanka, Diljit Dosanjh, and Kiara Advani also walked the red carpet at the Met Gala. Clearly, Indian celebs stole the show at an in-



### Deepika on motherhood

**CJ Desk** 

eepika Padukone is currently enjoying motherhood after welcoming her baby daughter, Dua Padukone Singh, on September 8, 2024. The actress, who stepped away from work after announcing her pregnancy in February, recently revealed that her pregnancy journey was 'complicated.'

In an interview with Marie Clarie, Deepika shared, "I went through a lot in the eight, nine months of being pregnant and delivery." Deepika revealed that she and Ranveer Singh took their time in choosing a name for their babyes with a simple 'yes,' and that was it.

girl, ensuring they didn't settle for anything that didn't feel right for her. The actress added, "I think what was more important for us was to first hold the baby in our arms, allow her to sort of see this new world she's come into, allow her personality to start developing a little bit."

Deepika shared that she found inspiration for her daughter's name through poetry and music. She shared, "It felt like a beautiful summary of what she means to us and why she means what she means to us." Recalling the moment, Deepika shared how she texted Ranveer in middle of the night while he was on set, asking, 'Dua?' He replied

it is better but I am still not completely He added

okay with it." that he would wear oversized clothes

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Only you can make yourself happy



comes from your own actions

Happiness is not

something readymade. It

- DALAI LAMA

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

# Richest 10% bigger villains than poorest 50%

en per cent of the world's higher carbon footprint than the poorest 50 per cent, leading to climate extremes such as heat waves and droughts, according to a study on Wednesday. The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, that the world's wealthiest 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of observed global warming since 1990. "Our study shows that extreme climate impacts are not just the result of abstract global emissions, instead we can directly link them to our lifestyle

and investment choices, which in turn are linked to wealth," explains lead au-Sarah thor Schongart. "We that found emitwealthy ters play a major role in driving climate extremes,

which provides strong



support for climate policies that target the reduction of their

highest

international of team researchers from Germany, If everyone had Switzerland, emitted like the bottom 50 Austria, and per cent of the global popu-Australia sessed the contribution of the

emissions," she added. asemitting groups within societies.

The findings showed that the top 1 per cent of the wealthiest individuals globally contributed 26 times the global average to increases in monthly 1-in-100-year heat extremes globally. The research sheds new light on the links between income-based emissions inequality and climate injustice, illustrating how the consumption and investments of wealthy individuals have had disproportionate impacts on extreme weather events.

### **Together on war on terror**

Did you Know?

lation, the world would

have seen minimal addi-

tional warming

since 1990

**7**est Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asserted that everyone is together in the war on terror. Her comments came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah's urgent meeting of chief ministers, chief secretaries and DGPs of states having borders with Pakistan and Nepal. The meeting was called in the wake of the strikes carried out by the Indian armed forces on terror targets in Pakistan.

### Jio adds 21L subscribers

relecom major Reliance Jio made an addition of about 2.17 million new subscribers out of 2.93 million for the entire industry in the month of March 2025. The telecom company leads with over 74 per cent market share of new subscriber additions. The company is driving industry growth with over 70 per cent market share across categories and continues to strengthen its market leadership further.

### 2 ANCIENT AYURVEDA TEXTS REVIVED

The Central Council for Research in ▲ Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, on Wednesday announced it has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic texts. The manuscripts Dravyaratnakara Nighau and Dravyanamakara Nighau were unveiled during an event organised by the RRAP Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Mumbai. "These texts are not just historical artefacts -- they are living knowledge systems that can transform contemporary healthcare approaches when studied and applied thoughtfully," said Prof. Vd. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi. Acharya emphasised the importance of such revivals in bridging India's ancient wisdom with contemporary research frameworks.

### **GOVT GREENLIGHTS MUSK'S INTERNET**

he government has issued Letter of Intent **■** to Starlink for satcom services, sources said on Wednesday. Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX -- the American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation company founded in 2002 by

world's richest man Elon Musk. It provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet world-

wide using satellite technology. Sources told PTI that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has now issued Letter of Intent to Starlink. Unlike conventional satellite services that rely

on distant geostationary satellites, Starlink utilises the world's largest low earth orbit or LEO constellation (550 km above earth).



I'm closely monitoring the situation & govt is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality

- MANOJ SINHA

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### LOWER PRICES OF EGGS FIRST

7 Thoopi Goldberg has spoken out against President Donald Trump's proposal to implement a 100 per cent tariff on foreign-produced movies, calling it a move that would limit the US film industry. According to The Hollywood Reporter, in a recent interview, Goldberg shared her strong disapproval of the plan, which was announced by Trump on his Truth Social platform earlier this week.

"Could you please lower the price of eggs before you start this?" Goldberg said, referencing the ongoing rise in domestic consumer prices as she weighed in on Trump's proposal. 'The Color Purple' actress expressed concern that the tariffs would unnecessarily restrict creative freedom in the film industry and negatively impact filmmakers who often rely on international locations to tell their stories

#### ICC TEST RANKINGS

# Jadeja top all-rounder, Bumrah No. 1 bowler

tar India spinner Ravindra Jadeja remained at the top, whereas Bangladesh cricketer Mehidy Hasan Miraz rose in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for all-rounders, as per the ICC official website. Miraz gained one place to move to second overall on the latest rankings for Test all-rounders on the back of his heroics for Bangladesh in their recent Test series against Zimbabwe, with Jadeja's lead at the top now under 100 rating points. The inform Miraz scored 116 runs two places to 24th overall on and claimed 15 wickets across the updated list for Test the two Tests and was rewardbowlers, with Bangladesh ed on the updated ICC Men's teammates Taijul Islam Test Player Rankings by im-(up to 16th) and Nayproving to a new career-best rating of 327 points and within 73 rat-



ja. India pacer Jasprit Bumrah maintained his lead as the No. 1-ranked Test bowler, Miraz also rose with Zimbabwe spinner Vincent Masekesa entering the rankings for the first time just outside the top 100 following his impressive display on debut during the Bangladesh Test.

### Russia adds 2K seats for Indian med students

eem Hasan (up to

54th).

ussia continues to be the Ltop choice for Indian students seeking medical education abroad, and Russian universities have a long-standing reputation for providing highquality medical Nearly 2,000 additional seats have been added to accommodate the growing number of students keen on pursuing medical courses in Russian universities, General Valerii Consul Khodzhaev of the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Chennai said on Wednes-



day. education worldwide, he said at an event in Chennai. With the number of Indian students taking up medical courses rising every year, Russia has in-

creased the number of seats from 8,000 to 10,000 in 2024, he said. The increase in seats reflects the growing demand for medical education in Russia.

### iOS app to simplify text

oogle has introduced a new feature called Sim-Uplify in its iOS app, designed to help users better understand complex text online. This feature uses Google's Gemini AI model to generate simpler versions of highlighted text. The Simplify feature can be accessed by highlighting any text on a website and tapping the Simplify icon from the menu options. This feature is particularly useful for breaking down technical jargon, such as medical terms, into more digestible language. For example, Simplify can explain terms like "emphy-

sema" and "fibrosis" in a way that's easy to understand. Google's testing showed that people found the simplified versions to be "significantly more helpful than the original complex text."



### Schools in J&K border districts shut

uthorities on Wednesday ordered closure of ed-**L**ucational institutions in three border districts of Kashmir as a precautionary measure, hours after Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, officials said. The Kashmir University has postponed all its examinations scheduled for the day.

Fresh date for the conduct of postponed papers shall be notified separately, University spokesman said. Cluster University also post-



poned all examinations scheduled for the day. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Wednesday ordered that all educational institutions in Baramulla, and Kupwara districts as well as in Gurez of Bandipora district will remain closed. Authorities have urged the public to remain alert and stay calm, and follow official advisories as a precautionary measure. Some schools around the Srinagar airport have also been closed.

Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. There's no room for terrorism in this world - SACHIN TENDULKAR

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**KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES** 

# MEDAL HAT-TRICKS FOR HARSHITA, SUHANI

metal in the 1km Time

Trial event.

Tarshita Jakhar achieved a golden hat-trick at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 cycling events, being held at the Velodrome, Indira Gandhi Stadium in Delhi. In her debut participation itself, the 18-year-old from Rajasthan has made the KIYG a memorable one for herself. She won the gold on Wednesday in the 2km Individual Pursuit event, recording a time of 02:35.178. The silver medal-

ist - Bhumika of Haryana registered time of 02:41.621. "Since I'm transitioning to the senior event, the competition hasn't been too tough for me to be honest," Harshita, who is a part of the Ministry of Aditya meanwhile bagged gold Youth Affairs and Sports' Tarin the 200m boys' sprint event get Asian Games Group (TAGG) and in the process, clinched program, told SAI Media. The his 2nd gold of KIYG 2025. bronze medal in the 2km Individ-He earlier won the yellow ual Pursuit event, meanwhile, belonged to Suhani Kumari of Bihar. This was incidentally also Suhani's third



medal in the cycling events - having won silver earlier in the 7.5km Scratch Race as well as a team silver in the girls' sprint. "I have enjoyed playing Harshita's cousin brother here. The tournament has been very well organised and I have tried my best in inspiring Bihar to bag more medals, through my feat this time," mentioned the 18-year-old Suhani, currently a trainee of Sports Authority of India National Centre of

Excellence (NCOE) Patiala.

### IPL TO PROCEED AS PER SCHEDULE

Tndian Premier League (IPL) 2025, which is Lclose to its business end, will proceed as planned amid the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. There are a number of overseas players and commentators present in India for the IPL, which began on March 22.

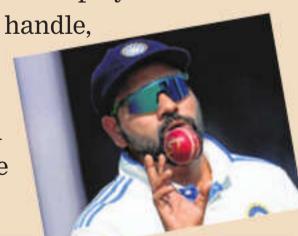
The cricketing extravaganza, which has 74 matches in its roster of which 56 have already taken place across various venues, concludes on May 25.



### **BCCI WISHES ALL THE BEST TO ROHIT**

eam India skipper Rohit Sharma has for-■ mally announced his retirement from Test cricket, drawing the curtain on a remarkable chapter of his international career. Following the announcement, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) extended its gratitude and best wishes to the veteran player. The BCCI posted on their X handle,

"Thank you, Captain, End of an era in whites! He will continue to lead India in ODIs. We are proud of you, Hitman."



### Indian archers to play for gold

Tndia's men's and women's teams booked their Laspots in the compound team finals at the second stage of the Archery World Cup in Shanghai after respective semifinal wins. The men's team featuring ever-consistent Abhishek Verma alongside Ojas Pravin Deotale and Rishabh Yadav narrowly defeated Denmark, in a tight semifinal. The men's team, which topped the qualification leaderboard with 2134, received the first round bye and began their campaign with a 239-232 quarterfinal win over Great Britain. The women's team, which had

also received a bye in the opening round, reached the gold medal match by outshooting Great Britain.

### **Bright start for Kidambi**

ar Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth started his campaign on a bright note with a straight game win over as he, along with a host of other youngsters, progressed to the second round of the Taipei Open Super 300 Badminton Tournament in Taipei on Wednesday. World No. 61 Srikanth, who is battling an extended lean patch, dispatched fellow Indian Sankar Subramanian, a 2022 world junior championships silver medal-

The 32-year-old, a silvermedallist at the 2021 World Championships, will face another Indian Ayush Shetty, a 2023 world junior championships bronze medallist.



#### **Best Podcast added to** Golden Globes

olden Globes 2026 ceremony will be a bit dif-If the first of th it. The organisers announced a new award category honoring the best podcast of the year, broadening its recognition of creative storytelling. The category will debut at the 83rd Golden Globe Awards, scheduled for January 11, 2026. Organizers said the move reflects the growing influence and reach of podcasts in the

entertainment industry. "As the world of entertainment continues to evolve, we are excited to recognize new forms of storytelling," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes."

### **QUICK NEWS**

### Satirical take on Hollywood

Ctreaming service Apple TV+ has Sgreenlit "The Studio", a satirical series exploring the inner workings of Hollywood, for a second season. The renewal comes two weeks ahead of the show's season finale, which is set for May 21. "The Studio" features Seth Rogen as Matt Remick, a movie executive.

### Actors praise Indian op

ctors Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar, AKangana Ranaut, and Allu Arjun praised Indian armed forces for carrying out missile strikes early Wednesday in Pakistan in retaliation against the barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians. South superstar Rajinikanth praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the success of 'Operation Sindoor

### Precision, restraint

cclaimed filmmaker Shekhar AKapur has praised India's measured and confident response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, commending its precision and restraint from war rhetoric. He stated that Operation Sindoor was a targeted strike against the territories and organizations that supported the perpetrators responsible for the killing of innocent civilians.

Your (Rohit Sharma) presence and impact will echo in that dressing room forever

- **RISHABH PANT** 

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TO CONTINUE PLAYING IN ODIS

# Rohit bids goodbye to Test cricket

Did you Know?

poor form

nohit Sharma on Wednesday an-**I** nounced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect ending all speculations about his future in the longest format and leaving India in the need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England.

The 38-year-old was India's most prolific Test batter in the second half of his career, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57. Having already retired

from T20 Internationals after the World Cup last year, Rohit will now only be seen

leading India in the ODI format. "Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. "Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI

format," he posted on instagram with a picture of his Test cap after PTI's newsbreak. Rohit captained India to the World Test Champi-Rohit endured onship final against Ausa particularly difficult run tralia and had a fairly deduring the Border-Gavaskar cent run in the format

Trophy where he had to save the last couple of indrop himself from the different series against playing XI owing to New Zealand at home and the Border-Gavaskar showdown

against Australia earlier this year.

IPL match at Dharamshala gets government nod

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has received **■** clearance from the Indian government to host match between Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Delhi Capitals (DC) match on Thursday of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in Dharamshala at the Hi-

machal

Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium. However, the May 11 match has shifted been from

Dharmshala to Mumbai, and the new date



for the match will be updated soon. As Dharamshala is located near the India-Pakistan border, there might be a threat at this venue, so there is a chance that the Punjab-based franchise will play their remaining home matches at a different place. "BCCI gets clearance from the government to host tomorrow's match in Dharamshala, but the May 11 match shifted to Mumbai from Dharmshala, the fresh date for the match will be updated soon," BCCI sources told ANI.

### INDIA SEAL PLACE IN **ODI TRI-SERIES**

Temimah Rodrigues' smashed a superb 123, while Amanjot ■ Kaur picked 3-59 on her international comeback as India beat South Africa by 23 runs and sealed their spot in the final of women's ODI tri-series at the R Premadasa In-

ternational Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Pushed into batting first, India were reduced to 50/3 in seven overs. But Jemimah, coming out to bat at number five, stepped up with her variety of sweeps and beautiful shots over extra cover, apart from proactive strike rotation, to hit her second ODI hundred in just 88 balls.





### English players want to leave Pak

nglish players involved in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) want to leave the country following the precision strikes by India during Operation Sindoor in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir, which claimed 26 innocent lives. Hours after the midnight strike by Indian armed forces on terror infrastructures in the country, the Pakistan

Cricket Board on Wednesday vowed to continue holding the remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League, However, tthe English players in PSL face a decision over whether to remain in the country. Seven England players -- Sam Billings, James Vince, Tom Curran, David Willey, Chris Jordan, Tom Kohler-Canmore and Luke Wood - are involved in PSL.

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